USAO names O'Malley as DEO for the CNMI on Nov. 8. PAGE 2
Giveaway of electric fans or LED light bulbs on Rota. PAGE 3

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

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THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

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HALLOWEEN NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM
Hundreds of people are seen going about the NMI Museum grounds during the 2nd Annual Night at the Museum hosted by Rotary Club of Saipan last Friday night. The event drew an estimated 2,000-plus members of the community. LEIGH GASES

USCIS modifies 'touchback'

» **Hundreds of workers expected to qualify**

Hundreds of CW-1 workers may have an extra year before they are required to leave the Marianas under the "touchback" provision of the U.S. Workforce Act, according to the latest advisory of U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services.

Previously, a worker approved on or after June 18, 2020, for a one-year CW-1 validity period was eligible for two more consecutive petition validity periods. So, touchback would be required at

See USCIS on Page 4

Sablan

BOOST names recipients; holds expo

By LEIGH GASES
leigh_gases@saipantribune.com
CORRESPONDENT

The Building Optimism, Opportunities, and Stability Together, or BOOST, Program Grant under the Office of the Governor

See BOOST on Page 4

Saipan BOOST recipients, Travis Jones, owner of The Last Shot Bar, and Lawrence Pangelinan, owner of Sindalu Tactical & Surplus, pose for a photo with Gov. Ralph DLG Torres after receiving their awards at the first ever BOOST program grant gala last Friday at the Saipan World Resort. LEIGH GASES

Crush kills at least 151 at Halloween festivities in Seoul

By KIM TONG-HYUNG and HYUNG-JIN KIM
ASSOCIATED PRESS

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—Concerned relatives raced to hospitals in search of their loved ones Sunday as South Korea mourned the deaths of at least 151 people, mostly in their teens and 20s, who got trapped and crushed after a huge Halloween party

See CRUSH on Page 4

Torres postpones SOCA delivery—again

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres has postponed his planned State of the Commonwealth Address to an unspecified date "in the interest of harmonizing the sentiment of our community that resulted from the chaos the House leadership created surrounding this matter."

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INSIDE

LOCAL
Pope Francis has extended his blessings to the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.
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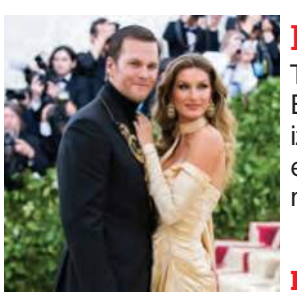
NATION
A man has attacked the husband of House Speaker Nancy Pelosi just weeks before Election Day.
PAGE 15



LIFE & STYLE
Tom Brady and Gisele Bündchen have finalized their divorce, ending the 13-year marriage.
PAGE 19

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SCAN ME WITH A COMPATIBLE QR READER TO KEEP UPDATED ON ALL THE LATEST NEWS.

Local

USAO names O'Malley as DEO for the CNMI on Nov. 8

Assistant U.S. Attorney Eric S. O'Malley has been appointed to serve as the District Election Officer for the Northern Mariana Islands for this coming Nov. 8, 2022, general election.

Shawn N. Anderson, who is the U.S. Attorney for the Districts of Guam and the Northern Mariana Islands, announced O'Malley's appointment yesterday, together with the appointment of Assistant U.S. Attorney Marivic P. David, who will serve as the DEO for Guam.

These AUSAs are responsible for overseeing the district's handling of election day complaints of voting rights concerns, threats of violence to election officials or staff, and election fraud, in consultation with Justice Department headquarters in Washington, D.C.

These assignments form part of the efforts of the U.S. Attorney's Office in connection with the Justice Department's nationwide Election Day Program for the Nov. 8, 2022, election.

"Every citizen must be able to vote without interference or discrimination and have that vote counted in a fair and free election," said Anderson. "Similarly, election officials and staff must be able to serve without being subject to unlawful threats of violence. The Department of Justice will dedicate its resources to protect the integrity of the election process."

The Department of Justice has an important role in deterring and combatting discrimination and intimidation at the polls, threats of violence directed at election officials and poll workers, and election fraud. The department will address these violations wherever they occur. The department's longstanding Election Day Program furthers these goals and seeks to ensure public confidence in the electoral process by providing local points of contact within the Department for the public to report possible federal election law violations.

Federal law protects against such crimes as threatening violence against election officials or staff, intimidating or bribing voters, buying and selling votes, impersonating voters, altering vote tallies, stuffing ballot boxes, and marking ballots for voters against their wishes or without their input. It also contains special protections for the rights of voters, and provides that they can vote free from interference, including intimidation, and other acts designed to prevent or discourage people from voting or voting for the candidate of their choice. The Voting Rights Act protects the right of voters to mark their own ballot or to be assisted by a person of their choice (where voters need assistance because of disability or inability to read or write in English).

In order to respond to complaints of election fraud or voting rights concerns during the voting period that ends on Nov.8, 2022, and to ensure that such complaints are directed to the appropriate authorities, DEOs will be on duty while the polls are open, including periods of early voting. David can be reached by the public at (671) 479-4120 or (671) 988-3260. O'Malley can be contacted at (670) 236-2986.

In addition, the Federal Bureau of Investigation will have special agents available in each field office and resident agency throughout the country to receive allegations of election fraud and other election abuses on election day. The public can contact the FBI at the following numbers:

- Honolulu Field Office 24/7 (808) 566-4300
- Guam Office (671) 472-7465
- Northern Mariana Islands Office (670) 322-6934

Complaints about possible violations of the federal voting rights laws can be made directly to the Civil Rights Division in Washington, D.C. by phone at 800-253-3931 or by complaint form at https://civilrights.justice.gov/ .

In the case of a crime of violence or intimidation, call 911 immediately and before contacting federal authorities. Local police have primary jurisdiction over polling places, and almost always have faster reaction capacity in an emergency. ***(PR)***

HEALTHY SNACKS
Girls of the NMI Girl Scouts learn how to make healthy snacks from Ashley Sikayun of the Northern Marianas College - Cooperative Research Extension, and Education Services, who explained the values of healthy food. The Girl Scouts were led by Reina Camacho and Troop Leader Jessy Loomis. The participating scouts were Ariah Villagomez, Emma Louise Lee, Zoe Lee, Baila Mari Loomis, Kyrie Palic, Gianna Moses, Quinn Bauer, Imari Camacho, Mayumi Sato,Gabriela Tenorio, Alana Tenorio, Vangelyn Serrano, Cristin Pangelinan, and Makenna Pangelinan.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Office of the Secretary of Public Works
2nd Floor Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, Saipan, MP 96950
10/18/2022

NOTICE TO ADJACENT LANDOWNERS ALONG THE ROUTE 33 BEACH ROAD FROM AK TOYOTA TO AMERICAN MEMORIAL PARK

(This notice is paid by NMHC with HUD Funds.)

CRM APPLICATION NO: SMS-2022-062
PROJECT: ROUTE 33 (BEACH ROAD) PHASE 3 & 4 REPAIR PROJECT
APPLICANT: DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS (DPW)

The Department of Public Works (DPW), in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Community Development Block Grant Disaster Recovery (CDBR-DR) is proposing to repair the roads along Route 33 (Beach Road) on the Northwestern side of Saipan.

PROJECT BACKGROUND
Beach Road Phase 3 & 4 is approximately 16,323 feet or 3.09 miles that stretches from former MVA office Station 185+50 to American Memorial Park (Station 348+73). The main objectives of the Department of Public Works (DPW) are to build the road safer for motorist by road repair, anti-skid overlay and installation of new pavement markers.

The scope of work encompasses asphalt pavement reconditioning on the affected areas that are identified showing base failure will be repaired by removing, excavating, backfilling basecourse 8-inch thick and paving with new 3-inch thick asphalt within the 3.09 miles.

Overlay Dense Graded Anti-skid Pavement 1-inch thick from AK Toyota Intersection to the American Memorial Park on top of the repaired asphalt pavement. Drainage infiltrators and catch basin at near star water company. Adjustment of water and sewer manholes to match with the new grade elevation. Installation of new pavement markers on the new pavement overlay.

Written comments can be submitted by mail to the Division of Coastal Resources Management, P.O. Box 501304, sent by fax to 664-8315, or emailed to permitting@dcrm.gov.mp. Please contact the DCRM at 664-8300 if you have any questions or would like to learn more about the Route 33 Road Repair project.

/s/ JAMES A. ADA
Secretary
Department of Public Works

PROPOSED ROUTE 33 (BEACH ROAD), PHASE 3 & 4 REPAIR
Total Length = 3.09 miles

High court hears oral arguments in Torres' appeal in JGO suit

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
Kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The CNMI Supreme Court heard Thursday last week oral arguments for and against the appeal filed by Gov. Ralph DLG Torres seeking a review of the Superior Court's recent order to dismiss the governor's suit against the House of Representatives' Judiciary and Governmental Operations Committee.

Supreme Court Justices pro tem Arthur Barcinas, Philip Carbullido, and Robert J. Torres heard the oral arguments made by parties involved in their position regarding the appeal filed by Torres against Superior Court judge pro tempore Timothy Bellas' decision dismissing the governor's case against the JGO.

After hearing the arguments, the Supreme court took the matter under advisement, saying it will issue a decision on it.

Back in May, Torres' counsel, Gilbert Birnbrich, filed a notice of appeal with the CNMI Supreme Court just a day after Bellas issued his order, which supported the JGO's motion to have Torres' case dismissed.

According to Birnbrich's argument in support of a reversal of Bellas' order, the order "ruins" the checks and balance system within the three branches of government by giving the Legislature limitless power.

"The Supreme Court must restore the balance of power between the two political branches by reversing the judgment of the Superior Court. This case is about whether a legislature is to be allowed nearly limitless power to harass and encumber the chief officer of a co-equal branch of government. In our system of divided government, the two political branches, legislative and executive, are often in the hands of opposing political parties," he said.

Birnbrich further argued that if the courts cannot exercise meaningful oversight when a legislative committee takes the extraordinary step of compelling the governor to testify, a legislature in the hands of one party can and will use its subpoena power to mete out political punishment to a chief executive from the opposing party.

"Such a result risks rupturing the separation of powers irrevocably. Such a committee could regularly and repeatedly haul a governor in to testify about any conceivable subject upon which legislation could be had; and, since the Legislature's lawmaking power 'extend[s] to all rightful subjects of legislation,' the governor could be commanded by any legislative committee at any time to be interrogated about virtually anything. Needless to say, this would hamstring his ability to govern and would effectively make the Executive Branch subservient to the Legislative Branch," Birnbrich said.

Ultimately, the Superior Court's decision created a blanket legislative immunity, and effective legislative supremacy, according to Torres' lawyer.

"Courts that have considered executive challenges to legislative subpoenas have therefore always been careful to balance the constitutional interests of the two branches—until now. The Superior Court's one-sided analysis failed to take into consideration any of the countervailing interests of the Executive Branch, or to hold the Legisla-

See HIGH COURT on Page 4

Giveaway of electric fans or LED light bulbs on Rota

The Energy Division Office of the Department of Public Works will be distributing 16-inch standing fans or LED light bulbs (10 each) to residential households on Rota this Friday, Nov. 4, 2022, from 8am to 4pm at the Youth Center.

This giveaway program, called the "2022 Rota Energy Educational Awareness and Community Outreach Program Campaign Drive-Thru Distribution Event," will be available only while supplies last. Funding opportunity for this project is made possible through grant funds awarded by the U.S. Department of Energy - State Energy Program.

The Division of Energy is conducting this event to promote energy conservation to encourage implementation of energy measures to assist residents reduce energy use and save money.

To avail of a 16-inch standing fan or LED light bulbs (10 each), residential homeowners must present a copy of a valid government-issued identification card and a copy of a most recent Commonwealth Utilities Corp. utility billing with the same name on the ID and CUC account. Distribution is limited to one item per household. Residents that are tenants of apartments, rental properties, etc., and not named as the CUC account holder, must provide a copy of a lease or rental agreement. If the residential homeowner with the CUC account holder's name is unable to make it, please provide a letter of authorization along with a copy of the ID matching the CUC account name to receive the said distribution item. Only one authorization letter will be accepted per individual. Sub-metered households are allowed, but these residents should submit a copy of the master CUC meter account bill. Businesses, rental property owners, and/or Landlords are not eligible to receive the16-inch standing fan or LED light bulbs.

With limited supplies available for this event, items will be available for distribution on a first-come, first-served basis throughout the specified time only, while supplies last.

Due to the continuing threat of COVID-19, the public is required to observe and comply with all health and safety protocols. Masks are required at all times during the program event hours of operations. All vehicle operators and passengers must remain in their vehicles at all times and must follow all posted event signs and obey all event traffic flow signs.

For additional questions or information regarding this event, you may contact Maile Iakopo at 664-4480/4.

FAC remains the same for November

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. announced last week that the Fuel Adjustment Charge remains at $0.34235 per kilowatt-hour for the month of November.

Although there has been a slight decrease in the Mean of Platts Singapore monthly pricing from September 2022 to November 2022 as notified by Mobil Oil Mariana Islands, Inc., the decrease did not equal or exceed a 4.5% differential of the average per gallon cost of fuel.

The FAC is one of two components that make up the CUC Electric kWh Rate, which is used to purchase fuel. The second component is the CUC base rate, which is used to fund operations, projects, and debt service. This base rate has not been increased since April 17, 2014.

CUC is required, pursuant to an order previously issued by the Commonwealth Public Utilities Commission, to adjust (up or down) the FAC pass-through rate when the Mean of Platts Singapore monthly pricing equals or exceeds a 4.5% differential of the average per gallon cost of fuel used in the calculation of the current FAC rate.

CUC first instituted the Levelized Energy Adjustment Clause in 2009 to recover fuel and fuel related costs, a system also used by power providers in Guam and the Virgin Islands. In May 2015, the CPUC authorized CUC to change the name of LEAC to FAC to provide customers a more accurate description of the electric rate. ***(CUC)***

Child care centers undergo health care trainings

Fifteen participants from three child care centers across Saipan participated in two-hour training sessions last Oct. 23, 2022, on required health and safety training topics related to prevention of and response to emergencies due to food and allergic reactions.

The trainings were conducted by Evergreen Learning's Quality Care apecialist Maricar I. Pena at the Evergreen Learning Training Center in Chalan Kanoa.

These trainings are made possible through funding from the Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Child Care, CNMI Child Care Development Fund Program under the Department of Community and Cultural Affairs.

The Child Care Reauthorization Act of 2014 requires that all Child Care Development Fund Program providers to complete preservice training requirements in 12 health and safety topic areas before they are allowed to be left alone to supervise young children. ***(PR)***

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of CNMI residents surveyed reported using Saipan Tribune "often" or "all the time" as a local news source
02
72%
of CNMI residents surveyed perceived the Saipan Tribune to be "trustworthy" or "very trustworthy"
03
NEWS USE AND PERCEPTIONS
Use and Perceived Trustworthiness of Media as Sources of Local News*
*Source:
i Minagåhet – Ellet: Reporting the Truth in the Northern Mariana Islands by the Northern Marianas Humanities Council
A study regarding news media use and perceptions, news media literacy, civic engagement, and community values in the Northern Mariana Islands
https://www.nmhcouncil.org/mediasurvey2022/
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CNMI receives blessings from Pope Francis

Pope Francis has blessed the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands following a recent pilgrimage by Gov. Ralph DLG Torres and first lady Diann T. Torres to the Vatican City, where they personally met with the pontiff.

"It was an extreme blessing not just to see His Holiness, Pope Francis, in the Vatican City, but to meet with him and get blessings for our people and our Commonwealth," said Torres, who expressed his and the first lady's gratitude to Pope Francis for welcoming them to the Holy City.

"His Holiness Pope Francis then gave us his blessings to bring back to the CNMI."

"I asked our Pope to bless Diann, our marriage, and the people of the Marianas, and so he said a little prayer and blessing. He blessed Diann and I, and did a small special prayer for the people of the Marianas. I was overwhelmed with joy, and that day was definitely the day to remember. I've met presidents and I've met other leaders, but there is something very special to be held by our Pope," said Torres. ***(PR)***

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres and first lady Diann T. Torres meet with Pope Francis following a pilgrimage to the Vatican City. OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

CRUSH

From Page 1

crowd surged into a narrow alley in a nightlife district in Seoul.

Tens of thousands of people were believed to have gathered in Itaewon for festivities on Saturday night. Witnesses say the streets were so densely clogged with people and slow-moving vehicles that it was practically impossible for emergency workers and ambulances to reach the alley near Hamilton Hotel, as the situation quickly developed into one of the country's worst disasters in years.

Officials say the death toll could grow as 19 people among the 82 being treated for injuries are in critical condition.

Seoul's city government said more than 2,000 people have called a city office in nearby Hannam-dong as of midday Saturday, reporting their relatives as out of contact and asking officials to confirm whether they were among those injured or dead after the crush.

The dead included 19 foreigners, said Choi Seong-beom, chief of Seoul's Yongsan fire department. Their nationalities weren't immediately released.

An estimated 100,000 people had gathered in Itaewon for the country's biggest outdoor Halloween festivities since the pandemic began and strict rules on gatherings were enforced. The South Korean government eased COVID-19 restrictions in recent months and this was the first big chance to get out and party for many young people.

While Halloween isn't a traditional holiday in South Korea, where children rarely go trick-or-treating, it's still a major attraction for young adults, and costume parties at bars and clubs have become hugely popular in recent years.

Itaewon, near where the former headquarters of U.S. military forces in South Korea operated before moving out of the capital in 2018, is an expat-friendly district known for its trendy bars, clubs and restaurants and it's the city's marquee Halloween destination.

Officials initially said 150 people were injured as of Sunday morning before later lowering their tally. National Fire Agency officials didn't immediately explain why the tally was reduced but said emergency workers would have had a more accurate idea of the casualties as rescue operations proceeded and that some of the injured would have been converted to deaths. It was also possible that some of those who were lightly injured had returned home overnight and were no longer counted.

USCIS

From Page 1

the end of the 2023 validity period. In its announcement last Friday, USCIS has now refined that policy only to cover petitions granted on or after June 18, 2020, that also had a starting validity date on or after that date. This effectively means that for some workers touchback would not be required until the end of the 2024 petition, an extra year.

In a separate news release last Friday, USCIS said that, effective immediately, the only CW-1 petitions it will classify as consecutive petitions for purposes of the temporary departure requirement are approved CW-1 petitions that have a starting validity date on or after June 18, 2020. Any extension of CW-1 status granted on or after June 18, 2020, will be considered a consecutive petition if the extension has a starting validity date on or after that date (and not backdated before that date).

"For example, if we approved a petition on July 1, 2020, but the petition was backdated to grant status from Oct. 1, 2019, we would consider that petition approved as of the earlier validity date of Oct. 1, 2019. Therefore, this petition would not apply toward the temporary departure requirement," it added.

Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP) has been meeting with the Marianas business community regularly to hear concerns about 2023, when the touchback requirement begins to affect the existing workforce. He has also been in discussion with USCIS about these concerns and how they could be addressed.

"The business leaders who have come to me understand the requirement to send CW workers back to their home country every three years is an important feature of the U.S. Workforce Act. It reminds employers that CW workers are temporary in nature and increases the economic incentive to hire local, U.S. workers whenever possible," Sablan said.

"The pandemic has made it very difficult to stay in business, however. So, I appreciate that USCIS was able to take another look at how the touchback provision would be applied and that some employers will get an additional one-year grace period."

Sablan also helped bring employer concerns about delays in issuance of Temporary Labor Certifications to the attention of USCIS; and the agency granted relief for those employers in an announcement last week.

The USCIS decision regarding touchback is available at https://www.uscis.gov/newsroom/alerts/uscis-will-only-consider-cw-1-petitions-approved-and-with-starting-validity-on-or-after-june-18-2020 ***(PR)***

BOOST

From Page 1

announced the first recipients of the grant program during its first gala and expo last Friday at the Taga Hall in the Saipan World Resort.

On Saipan, the program's first grant recipients were Lawrence Pangelinan of the military surplus shop called Sindalu Tactical & Surplus on Beach Road, and Travis Jones of The Last Shot Bar in Chalan Kanoa.

One family from Rota, the Ben and Tina Atalig family—also known as the "Kalamansi Family"—who were also a beneficiary of the program, said they will now be able to afford machinery that will help enhance their *kalamansi* production. *Kalamansi* is a citrus fruit.

Another Rota BOOST Grant recipient was the Matias and Mercedes Taisacan family for Rota's Historical Cave Museum and Jaqueline Manglona and her family's pizzeria.

For Tinian, K-Town Coffee and Annie San Nicolas and Elvin Masga with their fishing boat, *Le'Ana Vae*, were awarded grants under the BOOST Fishermen, Farmer, and Rancher Program.

None of the recipients' award amounts were disclosed.

The governor's chief of staff, William Castro, said that so far no application has been denied. "None of the submissions have been rejected." He said they are only in Round 1 and for this week, it will continue on to Round 2 and so on.

"It's not easy to go through 600 applications and wrestle with the panel and other input from people, including your voices about where the money should be invested. … The point is, there is a quality control measure to ensure the funds are being used properly, because the last thing I want to do is give someone $100,000 and we never hear from them and we can't account for that one. That's not going to happen..."

For Sindalu, Pangelinan said his business started because of how hard it was to get anything on the island related to hunting gear and law enforcement gear. "What we wanted to do was to provide our community with the necessary equipment and gear, authentic, quality, yet price competitive because I know, for many years… I don't know why you still don't have just the little details that cater to our community. And so, it is with great pleasure to be that hub for the community."

A longer version of this story is available at www. saipantribune.com

All set for early voting tomorrow

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Commonwealth Election Commission is all set for the start of the seven-day early voting tomorrow, Tuesday, according to CEC executive director Kayla S. Igitol yesterday.

Igitol said voters should bring an identification card, but if they don't have one, the CEC can provide a "No ID affidavit."

She also reminded everyone that campaigning within 300 feet of designated polling places is not allowed. Campaign materials in polling places are also prohibited.

Early voting is from Nov. 1 to 7, from 8:30am to 4pm.

Early voting on Saipan is at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe.

On Tinian, the early voting polling site is the Tinian Department of Public Safety administration Office in San Jose.

For early voting on Rota, the polling place is the Rota DPS in Songsong.

According to CEC's website, as of Sept. 14, 2022, there were 19,275 registered voters in the CNMI.

General elections will be on Nov. 8.

TORRES

From Page 1

This was the third time that the SOCA has been rescheduled. Torres originally set the speech on Oct. 21, 2022, but that provoked criticism from opposition lawmakers. Subsequently, on Oct. 19, 2022, Torres asked the presiding officers for the Legislature to convene in a joint legislative session to receive the SOCA and that his office has confirmed the use of Kensington Hall at the Kensington Hotel Saipan to deliver the SOCA on Oct. 31, 2022, at 10am. This contradicted the Dec. 1 date that the House had set for the SOCA.

"While I was hoping to deliver the SOCA before a joint session on the Oct. 31 rescheduled date, it is apparent that it will not be the case as a result of the impasse between both chambers as to the desired date for the joint session," Torres said in a press statement last Friday. "I wish to reiterate that the goal of the SOCA event is to provide the public an opportunity to hear from its government, the challenges we have faced, and the progress we have made as a community. I consider this opportunity, following years of disasters that have impeded prior addresses from occurring, a critical element of ensuring the public is aware of the actions and decisions of its government.

"Moreover, I regard my delivery of the SOCA to be a means of delivering transparency not just to the other branches of our government, but to the people we are called to serve. It is very unfortunate that the House, once again, has decided to cry foul and accused my administration as politicizing the SOCA as a means to advance my re-election bid. Such accusation is far from the truth. Our recovery efforts from the disasters and the pandemic are evident with the progress that we have achieved thus far. Although some may not want to acknowledge the successes of our community in overcoming our most challenging times, I will continue advancing efforts towards economic recovery and growth to improve the quality of life for all.

A longer version of this story is available at www. saipantribune.com

HIGH COURT

From Page 2

ture to any higher showing of necessity when it commands the chief executive to testify before it than when it subpoenas sales receipts from a grocery store. The Superior Court set up a 'straw man of blanket' executive immunity—a claim the governor never asserted—and knocked it down, thereby excusing itself from considering the unique separation of powers problems the subpoena posed," he said.

Meanwhile, the JGO argues that the Superior Court properly found the JGO to be legally entitled to the cloak of legislative immunity, not necessarily for the sake of protecting the legislators themselves, but also to safeguard and protect the Legislature's ability to perform legitimate legislative actions, and to be a meaningful check and balance on the Executive Branch.

"This finding was wholly consistent with the doctrine of separation of powers, where the Executive, the Legislative, and the Judiciary are all co-equal branches, and not in derogation of it," the JGO argued.

The BOOST Gala took place on the evening of October 25th to show appreciation to all the partners and organizations involved in making the BOOST Program possible.

Small business owners of Sindalu Tactical and Last Shot Bar were awarded their BOOST Grant checks this evening.

COVID-19 CRIPPLED A LOT OF DREAMS AND BUSINESSES.

BOOST Program gives new hope and inspires people across Northern Marianas to get back on their feet.

Live music by Baba B.

Honorable Ralph DLG Torres speaks on the merits of the BOOST Program.

Featured BOOST Recipients Andrea Atalig from the Kalamansi family from Rota gives special remarks.

The Kalamansi Family from Rota gives thanks to the BOOST Program.

BOOST Program is the acronym for - **B**uilding **O**ptimism, **O**pportunities and **S**tability **T**ogether. It is a financial assistance in the form of Grants – initiated by the Office of the Governor, Department of Commerce, and Department of Finance – provided to local businesses and non-profits, as well as coaching and training programs to support their viability and help create employment opportunities. The program also supports the Commonwealth government's goal of diversifying the economy and increasing tax revenues.

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DEADLINE EXTENDED TO NOVEMBER 18

BOOST

COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

CNMI COUNCIL ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY PROGRAM

ANNUAL REPORT TO THE CITIZENS OF THE CNMI

FISCAL YEAR 2022

WHO WE ARE

Who We Are 1
Performance 2
Financial 3
What's Next 4

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Executive Director

Josephine K. Tudela
Program Manager

Rufina C. Pangelinan
Admin. Manager / Fiscal Officer

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Program Planner

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OUR PURPOSE:
The purpose of the Council is to undertake advocacy, capacity building, and systemic change activities consistent with subsections [b] and [c] of section 101 of the Developmental Disabilities Assistance & Bill of Rights Act of 2000, more specifically, to ensure that individuals with developmental disabilities and their families participate in the design of and have access of needed community services, individualized supports, and other forms of assistance that promote self-determination, independence, productivity, and integration and inclusion in all facets of community life.

MISSION:
It is the mission of the CNMI Council Development Disabilities to bring about necessary systemic change in order to promote the lives of persons with developmental disabilities. This will assure that the service network is providing persons with developmental disabilities the programs necessary to enable them to achieve their maximum potential.

STATE PLAN IMPLEMENTATION:
The Council shall develop and implement that the state plan required by the DD Act and the Council's State law, as now or hereafter amended. The Council shall implement the State Plan by conducting and supporting advocacy, capacity building, and systemic change activities as described in Part B of the DD Act.

The Council shall take any other actions as may be reasonable to carry out the purposes of the CNMI Council on Developmental Disabilities Law and the DD Act, as now or hereafter amended.

PERFORMANCE

PERFORMANCE AREA EMPHASIS:

Goal 1: Self Advocacy - Leadership & Advocacy:
By, 2026 people with developmental disabilities and their families will have access to leadership development opportunities and or training to increase their advocacy skills to improve their quality of life.

Goal 2: Community Services Improvement:
By 2026, The Council will strengthen communities in the CNMI to support people with developmentaldisabilities.

OUR WORK:

To help serve our community, Council members developed a five-year state plan addressing the needs of CNMI residents with developmental disabilities. The plan was implemented through community partnerships and our self-advocates educating our community in disability awareness by designing projects that were innovative and sustainable. The Council used a comprehensive needs assessment from partners to identify areas for goal development.

Federal fiscal year 2022 commences the implementation of the Council's new 2022-2026 five-year state plan. Meeting quarterly and working through committees and work teams, Council members dedicated their time to develop programs and evaluate goals and objectives. Each member has an intergral voice in serving the communities they represent.

Councils are mandated to engage in advocacy, capacity building, and systemic change activities that support people with developmental disabilities to live in homes and communities in which they can exercise their full rights and responsibilities as citizens while pursuing meaningful and productive lives. Councils are called to improve coordinated, consumer and family centered and directed community services. Serving as advocates for people with DD, council activities and projects must carry out the purpose of the DD Act.

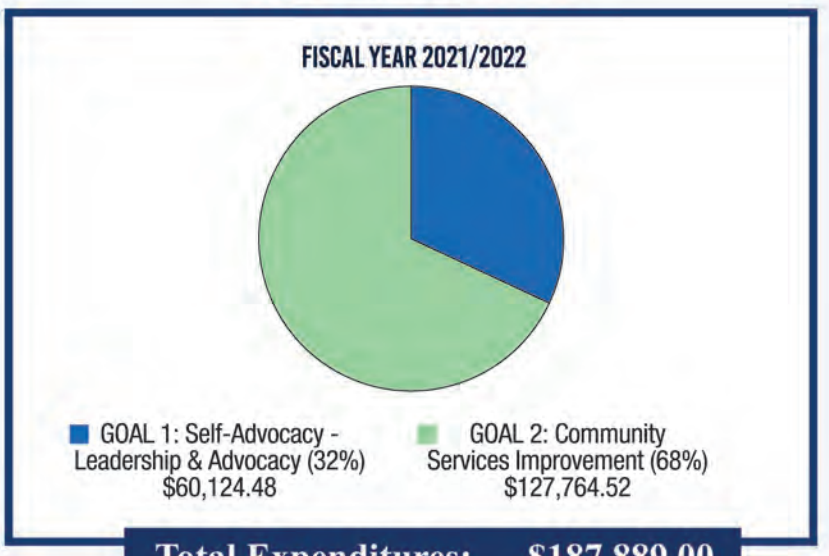
FINANCIAL

FUNDING SOURCE:
The CNMI CDD receives a federal formula grant from the Administration on Community Living under Title I, Subtitle B of the Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act of 2000. All funds are subject to the requirements of the Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principle and Audit Requirements for HHS Awards under 45 CFR Part 75.

The CNMI CDD funds used primarily for two purposes: (1) planning and (2) implementation of innovative strategies to address the needs of CNMI residents with developmental disabilities.

ADVOCACY CAPACITY BUILDING SYSTEM CHANGE

2022 PROJECT BUDGET


FISCAL YEAR 2021/2022
GOAL 1: Self-Advocacy - Leadership & Advocacy (32%) $60,124.48
GOAL 2: Community Services Improvement (68%) $127,764.52

Total Expenditures: $187,889.00
Administrative Costs: $73,726.00

WHAT'S NEXT?

FOCUS AREA & EXPECTED OUTCOMES: 2022 - 2026 STATE PLAN

Goal 1: Self-Advocacy: Leadership & Advocacy
By, 2026 people with developmental disabilities and their families will have access to leadership development opportunities and or training to increase their advocacy skills to improve their quality of life.

Expected Goal Outcomes:
1. Increase of self-advocate leaders from the VOICES of the CNMI will use their leadership skills and knowledge to effectively operate the organization.

2. People with DD will become more knowledge in leadership and self-advocacy.

3. There will be a culturally diverse increase in the knowledge and under-standing of DD issues across the disability spectrum.

4. People with DD will become more engaged in community activities through the NMC's HEROES Program.

5. People with DD will become more engaged in civic leadership activities that cross the disability spectrum.

6. People with DD will become more engaged in and participate in the policy making process.

7. People with DD will be able to exercise their right to vote..

Goal 2: COMMUNITY SERVICES IMPROVEMENT
By 2026, The Council will strengthen communities in the CNMI to support people with developmental disabilities.

Expected Goal Outcomes:
1. People of the CNMI will have increased knowledge and access to competitive, integrated employment opportunities. Businesses will have increased knowledge about the benefits of hiring people with disabilities.

2. More people will have an increased knowledge of employment rights of individuals with disabilities and person's first language.

3. More people with developmental disabilities will have increased access to assistive technology in rural and underserved areas of the CNMI.

4. Data collected from stakeholders during meetings will assist us with how to plan and develop strategies for the establishment of a central repository for disability data housing in Year 2022 and Year 2023.

5. TARGETED DISPARITY: Asian families with children with developmental disabilities in the CNMI will have more information about formal and informal supports that meet their individual needs and preferences in a culturally appropriate manner.

6. More family members and or caregivers of individuals with developmental disabilities and or individuals who are medically fragile in the CNMI will have access to respite services.

7. There will be an increase of knowledge and understanding of any unforeseen emergencies such as, biological, chemical, natural disasters, terrorist attacks, or any other emergencies deemed so by the Federal Emergency Management Agency or a related entity in the CNMI.

8. CNMI First Responders will have more knowledge on how to assist individuals with disabilities and their families during emergency situations.

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
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EDITORIAL

The horrifying attack on Paul Pelosi is an attack on democracy

America is now a nation where acts of political violence are so predictable that for months before an assailant broke into the San Francisco home of House Speaker Nancy Pelosi and attacked her husband, Paul Pelosi, on Friday, experts have warned such an incident was likely.

"Politically catalyzed violence should be expected to rise with the election calendar and to fall between campaigns," Rachel Kleinfeld, a senior fellow at the Carnegie Endowment, said in testimony to Congress in March.

Public officials, and their families, should not have to live with this level of fear. It is horrific that campaign season has become a time of violence and threats rather than healthy debate about the issues.

Democrat Nancy Pelosi was in Washington, D.C., when the intruder broke into her San Francisco home shouting, "Where is Nancy? Where is Nancy?" before attacking her husband with a hammer, fracturing his skull and seriously injuring his arm. Police booked David DePape—who reportedly said he was "waiting for Nancy" after police arrived at the Pelosi home—on suspicion of several crimes, including attempted homicide and assault with a deadly weapon.

A Los Angeles Times review of DePape's online presence shows he was engaged in spreading far-right conspiracies, spewing antisemitism, hate and bizarre QAnon screeds and posting videos from Donald Trump supporters pushing the bogus claim that the 2020 election was stolen.

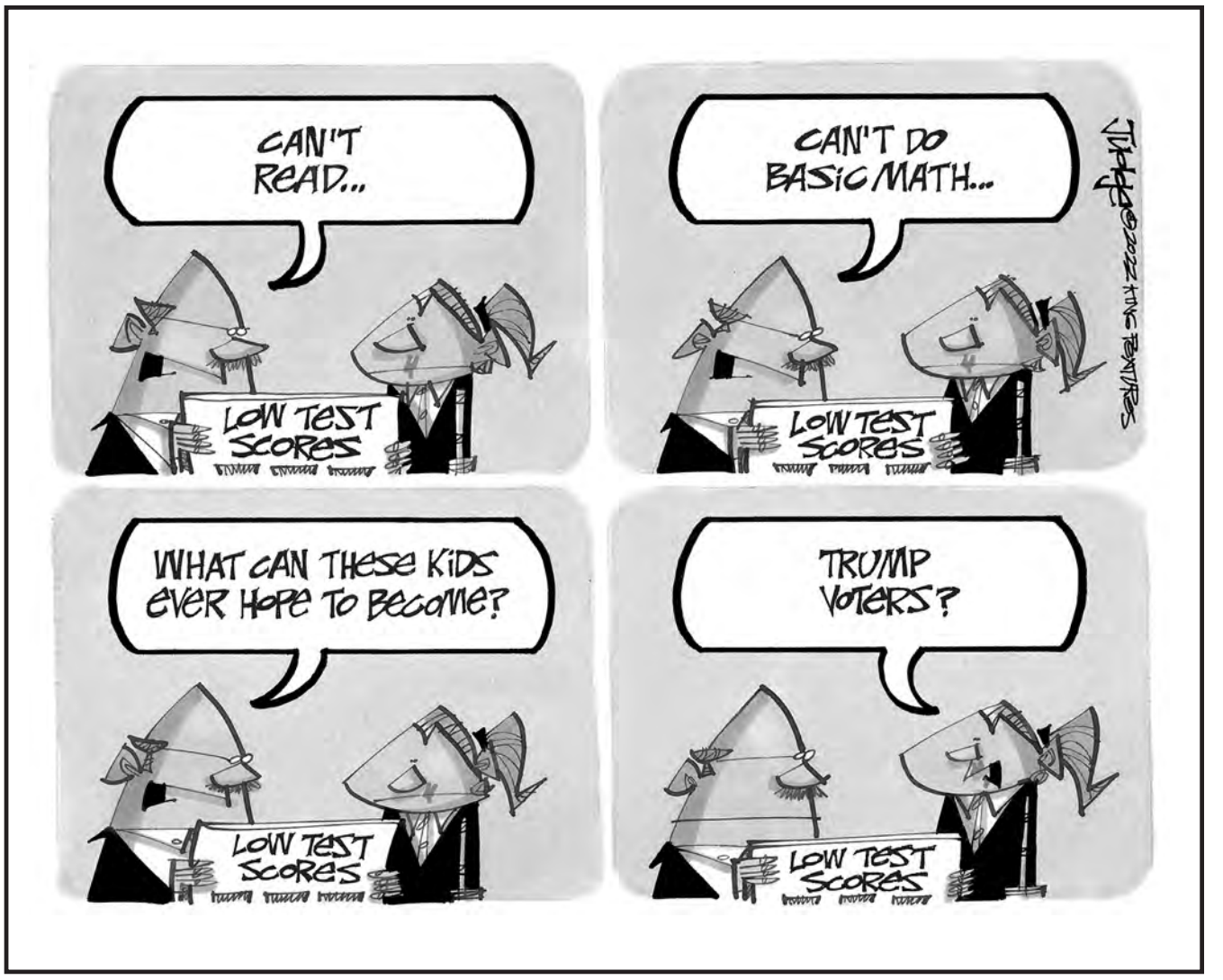
Yes, occasional political violence across the ideological spectrum is as old as America itself. What's different now is the frequency. In the five years after Trump was elected president in 2016, recorded threats against members of Congress rose more than tenfold, to 9,625 in 2021, according to a New York Times analysis of figures from the Capitol Police.

On Friday, a man pleaded guilty to threatening to kill Rep. Eric Swalwell, D-Calif., and his staff. Earlier this summer, a man tried to stab New York gubernatorial candidate Lee Zeldin, a Republican congressman, during a July campaign event, and an armed man was arrested on suspicion of threatening to kill Democratic Rep. Pramila Jayapal outside her Seattle home.

Republicans who believe that the 2020 election was stolen from Trump and that Joe Biden is an illegitimate president are "substantially more likely" than other Americans to believe that violence is justified to advance political objectives, according to a new study by the UC Davis Violence Prevention Research Program.

"They are more likely to hold extreme and racist beliefs,

See PELOSI on Next Page



The unmaking of an October surprise

By MARTIN SCHRAM
Tribune News Service

Martin Schram, an op-ed columnist for Tribune News Service*, is a veteran Washington journalist, author and TV documentary executive. Readers may send him email at martin.schram@gmail.com.*

Sometimes it takes a while for a journalist's big-deal scoops to be confirmed, on the record.

Here's one about how a pol who was both famous and infamous schemed to create his own crowd-taunting, violence-inciting, sympathy-evoking last-minute October surprise way of ending a campaign. It only took me a half-century to get it all officially confirmed.

But it came with a bonus: I've also finally confirmed my on-the-spot decision as a young Newsday correspondent to give away our prized scoop by sharing it with all my competitors—to ensure that all America could learn the truth before Election Day.

Yes, we're talking about Richard Nixon, pre-Watergate. Specifically: The 1970 night Nixon schemed to end his 22-state midterm campaign to elect Republicans by playing his I'm-just-an-innocent-victim card. (Sound familiar?)

FLASHBACK: It is Saturday night before Tuesday's election. Nixon is making his final midterm campaign speech in the San Jose Civic Auditorium before flying down to his San Clemente, California, home. Outside, a huge crowd of anti-war protesters is pounding on the doors and chanting "1, 2, 3, 4. We don't want your f---ing war!" Remember: This is just two years after Martin Luther King Jr. and Robert F. Kennedy were assassinated. So I decide to miss the press bus motorcade to make sure Nixon safely enters his armored limo, just in case violence erupts. I am standing beside Nixon's limo with my notepad and new micro-cassette recorder in my left hand when Nixon approaches with his chief of staff, H.R. (Bob) Haldeman, and Haldeman's young deputy, Dwight Chapin. Shouting protesters are about 40 yards away.

Suddenly Nixon climbs onto the limo's hood. Grinning, he raises his arms, flashes his trademark double "V" signs at protesters—and says to his aides through clenched teeth: "That's what they hate to see."

Then Nixon climbs down and enters his limo. As the limo and motorcade drive off, the protesters begin pelting the vehicles with rocks and also eggs (not indigenous to most parking lots). Nixon's limo is dented; some car and press bus windows are shattered. They are gone.

I use an auditorium pay phone to dictate my story to Newsday's Long Island, New York, newsroom—including what Nixon said as he taunted the protesters. Soon presidential aides will issue a Nixon statement condemning "the viciousness of the lawless elements of our society." The aides will insist Nixon thought he was merely greeting friendly supporters. Newsday readers will know better—but I know it will take all weekend for that truth to make it back across the country.

I see my friend Stu Loory of the Los Angeles Times on another pay phone dictating his story. I share my scoop with him. Stu redictates a new top for his piece. Outside, I flag down a car, pay the driver $100 for a fast ride to the airport. I'm the last to board the press plane. My colleagues have already filed their reports. Grabbing the flight attendant's microphone, I share my scoop—and they race off the plane to re-file new stories. In the front row, deputy press secretary Gerald Warren glares daggers at me—and glares daggers at my new micro-cassette recorder I'm still holding.

Newsday had lost a scoop. Democracy was served.

FAST FORWARD (just a bit): In 1975, Nixon's speechwriter William Safire wrote dismissively about my account of that San Jose incident in his memoir, "Before the Fall." He wrote that no other reporter or aide heard that "murmured" quotation amid the tumult. But Jerry Warren had seen me displaying my micro-cassette recorder—and the Nixon team didn't dare deny Nixon said that quote.

SUPER-FAST FORWARD: This year, that once-young Haldeman aide Dwight Chapin wrote about the San Jose incident at length in his revealing memoir, "The President's Man." Holy Safire! Chapin writes that he and Haldeman figured the San Jose protest would be an "opportunity for the television cameras to capture the violence." Chapin says he told Nixon if he paused in front of the demonstrators, they "will start screaming at us." Nixon did it—and more. Before the speech, Nixon also flashed his "V" signs to inflame the crowd. After the speech, when Nixon climbed atop the hood and flashed his "V" signs, Chapin writes that he heard Nixon say: "This is what they hate to see!" Close enough.

Buying that micro-cassette recorder was one of the smartest things I ever did. The only thing smarter might have been if I had actually turned the damn thing on before that stunning moment when Nixon climbed atop his limo's hood.

Note to self: Do that next time.

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A commitment to business, family, community succeeding as one

Editor's Note: This is the transcript of Staffler's Chamber of Commerce forum speech and she asked that it be printed here since the event was canceled.

By LEILA C. STAFFLER
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Rep. Leila C. Staffler is a Precinct 5 representative in the House of Representatives of the 22nd Legislature and chairs the Education and the Workforce Committee.

The Saipan Chamber of Commerce recently asked the candidates for lieutenant governor and other positions to comment on the very broad subject of "business legislation and community benefits." Although the Chamber unfortunately canceled its public forum with the candidates to discuss this topic, I would still like to share with our community the platform and plans that Tina Sablan and I have, that I would have discussed in that forum.

Being data-driven is an important value to Tina and me. Data helps us understand the big picture and make sound decisions. For example, we know from the 2020 census data that about 72% of civilians in the CNMI are employed in the private sector. Approximately 26% are employed by the government. Moreover, only 2.3% consider themselves self-employed.

Tina and I believe that small businesses and a strong, competitive workforce are the heart of a healthy economy, and that the government serves an important role in ensuring a level playing field and supporting the success of both small businesses and workers. Our vision resonates with the Chamber's vision of islands "where business, family, and community succeed as one."

Economies all over the world are still reeling from the effects of the pandemic, and we are no exception to that in the Marianas. Tina and I understand that our islands will only move forward through enterprise. Enterprise means business, of course, but it also refers to undertakings that are challenging and require great effort. Reinvigorating our economy will take enterprise in every sense of that word.

We also know that when something is hard, working collaboratively can drive innovation and creative solutions. We must be change agents to actively support 100% of our workforce, in both the public and private sectors. This is key to a healthy economy, and what the people of the CNMI can expect from Tina and me.

Tina and I believe in modernizing our government and making it more accessible and responsive to the needs of the business community —from expediting the transition to e-government, to expanding policies in the area of e-commerce.

E-commerce is one of many ways to diversify our economy. Think of all the Instagram stores that have "popped up" in the last couple of years, and all the teens meeting up in parking lots engaging in commerce—and not for illicit drugs! They're trading in fast fashion and accessories! This is the new start-up entrepreneurship of this generation, and our government has been slow to act to support innovation like this in our business community. In some ways, the current administration has actively worked against economic growth, particularly in e-commerce.

In 2021, I authored House Bill 22-55, to establish a separate license for online sales of alcoholic beverages. This bill would have been a revenue generating bill, allowing e-commerce businesses that are based in the CNMI to apply for a liquor license. I introduced this legislation after learning about the dilemma faced by e-commerce entrepreneurs in the CNMI who are unable to get liquor licenses. One CNMI resident who sells gift baskets online shared with me that she wanted to legally include wine as part of her package options, but could not do so because the CNMI's liquor license laws didn't recognize online businesses. Here she was, trying to expand her business, but unable to do so because of bureaucracy.

H.B. 22-55 passed both the House and the Senate, with the support of the Department of Commerce. Unfortunately, it was vetoed by Gov. Torres. This is but one of many examples of how this administration stymies economic growth and negatively affects small businesses.

Tina and I hosted a series of listening sessions with small business owners over the past several months, and one recurring theme we heard had to do with lengthy and inefficient government processes for permitting and licenses. One CNMI business owner shared with us that in the states, he is able to renew his business license online in under 30 minutes. Here in the CNMI, he said, "My renewals have taken upwards of three months." Another small restaurant operator told us that in the states, he was able to complete his food handler's training and testing entirely online, and to print his food handler's certificate at home within minutes of passing the test. He was shocked to return home to the CNMI to find that online certification wasn't even an option, and getting his food handler's certificate took many days.

It was from these meetings and these stories that Tina and I decided we would create a Small Business Advisory Council as a way to stay abreast of policies and issues affecting the business community, so we can be responsive, especially in this rapidly changing world.

In addition to modernizing our government, Tina and I believe building a strong workforce is a key part of the Sablan-Staffler economic development plan. Our 2020 census data shows that only 11% of the CNMI employed population are in the construction industry. In the U.S., it is 20%, almost twice that of the CNMI. Although there are huge plans for development in the CNMI, from rebuilding the Northern Marianas College, to the CDBG-DR housing program and FEMA home construction, our workforce in the construction industry is still woefully underdeveloped.

Tina and I envision all educational and workforce agencies and institutions collaborating to create career pathways for people to develop the skills they need for productive and gainful employment, especially in the construction trades. In fact, this initiative has already begun. I have authored H.B. 22-115, to require all contractors to be licensed in the CNMI, and H.B. 22-118, to establish an apprenticeship program within the CNMI. Both bills are the product of a collaborative effort with the Northern Marianas Technical Institute, Northern Marianas College, Public School System, Department of Labor, Revenue and Taxation, and the Chamber of Commerce. Recently, NMC conducted a survey with the Chamber and reported that the lack of tax incentives for employers are a major hindrance for buy-in and participation in an apprenticeship program. Another concern is how to fund apprenticeships, especially in the construction trades.

House bills 22-115 and 22-118 complement each other. Currently, there is no contractor licensing law in the CNMI. H.B. 22-15 would require contractor licensing, and ensure that contractors in the CNMI have a licensed Managing Responsible Employee and access to certifications for their skilled trades employees. This legislation is necessary to protect both contractors and customers, providing consumer protections as well as accountability for all development in the CNMI. This legislation is also revenue-generating, and the funds collected will be used to support construction industry apprenticeships that will be part of the apprenticeship program that H.B. 22-118 will create.

H.B.22-115 and H. B.22-118 help provide a critical transition to prepare for the year 2029, when the Commonwealth-Only Contract Worker (CW) program will cease by law. These bills are examples of policies that align our Department of Labor with our educational institutions, especially in the essential area of the trades and workforce development. These bills benefit our community and economy because they make investments in building capacity in our workforce. The bills are currently in the House JGO committee and open to review and feedback.

The Sablan-Staffler platform includes plans to implement the Marianas Jobs Now Initiative, which will match people with jobs in the public and private sector and with training, including apprenticeships. Another initiative in our platform is the Come Home Project. This is aimed to recruit local talent from the CNMI diaspora, living or studying abroad, to come home. This program will help match these former residents with job opportunities in the private and public sectors, and assist in their transition back to the islands.

One piece of legislation that is business-related and offers community benefits is H.B. 22-98, authored by Tina and co-sponsored by myself and others, which aims to gradually raise the minimum wage, and strengthen workers' rights. This bill is pro-worker, and it is also pro-business in that it would help make the CNMI more competitive in our ability to attract workers. Just last year, neighboring Guam raised their minimum wage again to $9.25/hour, but the CNMI still lags far behind, at $7.25/hour, which hasn't changed since 2017. H.B. 22-98 proposes incremental increases in the minimum wage, from $7.25/hour to $10/hour, over four years. This bill does not (I repeat: does not) jump the minimum wage from $7.25/hour to $10/hour outright.

H.B. 22-98 is also pro-business because it helps create a level playing field for employers, strengthening worker protections and stiffening penalties against bad actor employers who cheat workers out of wages and unfairly undercut competitors. Moreover, CNMI wage law has not changed since 1998, and badly needs an update. The current law is grossly outdated, with the CNMI minimum wage in our code still set at $3.05/hour. The current law also allows egregious and discriminatory practices such as paying senior citizens or people with disabilities less than the minimum wage. H.B. 22-98l is now in the House Ways and Means Committee and is open to feedback.

One of the biggest community benefits that working families got to experience this recent tax season was the Earned Income Tax Credit, which was paid out to the CNMI's working families for the first time in 20 years. Implementation of the EITC was the result of collaboration with Delegate Gregorio Kilili Sablan, who included full and permanent federal funding for this tax credit in the American Rescue Plan Act, and Tina Sablan, who authored the legislation that became Public Law 22-03, to restore the EITC to the Commonwealth's working families. Prior to P.L. 22-03, the CNMI government imposed a 100% tax on the EITC. The EITC is a proven and effective tool to fight poverty, encourage work, and lift household incomes by putting money back into the pockets of working individuals and families.

Another collaborative effort can be found in Delegate Kilili Sablan's H.R. 560, which both Tina and I support. This bill would provide status and stability for CW workers, their families, and their employers. H.R. 560 is critical for both humanitarian and economic reasons. CW families are part of our community and must be part of the Commonwealth's transition to 2029. The CNMI has a champion in Washington, D.C. with Congressman Kilili. The CNMI will also have champions in the governor's office with Tina and me, and we will work with Kilili and the Biden administration to advocate for the CNMI's workforce and economic needs.

Aligning our systems brings benefits for our whole community. To become islands "where business, family, and community succeed as one," we truly have to work as one. Let us be change agents to move our community forward through enterprise, and bring to fruition this vision of a thriving economy, with healthy small businesses and a strong workforce at its center.

PELOSI

From Page 8

to endorse political violence, to see such violence as likely to occur, and to predict that they will be armed under circumstances in which they consider political violence to be justified," the authors wrote.

This trend is a stain on the nation and something leaders of all kinds—political, religious, community and cultural—must work to reverse. Violence against public officials and their families is the mark of an undemocratic society.

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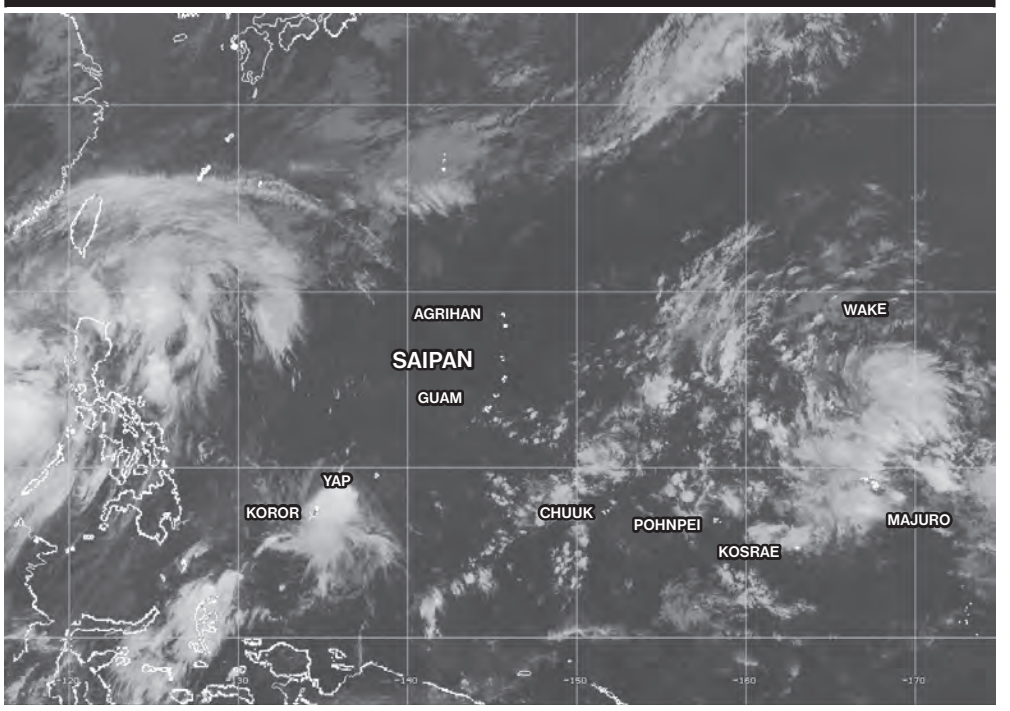
The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Isolated showers. Mostly sunny	Partly sunny	Partly sunny	Partly sunny	Mostly sunny
87° 78°	87° 78°	87° 78°	87° 78°	87° 78°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 8:04 AM, SUNDAY, OCTOBER 30, 2022

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Satellite imagery shows partly cloudy skies with isolated to scattered showers in the Mariana waters this morning. Ritidian and Tanapag buoys show seas show seas are between 5 to 6 feet.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA		▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Scattered Thunderstorms	85° / 78°
Palau	Thunderstorms	82° / 76°
Yap	Scattered Thunderstorms	85° / 79°
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	86° / 80°
Pohnpei	Scattered Thunderstorms	86° / 80°
Kosrae	Partly Cloudy	87° / 80°
Majuro	Scattered Thunderstorms	84° / 79°

AROUND THE GLOBE		▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Thunderstorms	71° / 57°
Beijing	Sunny	63° / 35°
Hong Kong	Mostly Cloudy	83° / 73°
Honolulu	Mostly Sunny	85° / 74°
London	Mostly Cloudy	63° / 53°
Los Angeles	Sunny	81° / 55°
Manila	Thunderstorms/Wind	86° / 79°
Melbourne	Rain	66° / 47°
Miami	Partly Cloudy	84° / 77°
New York	Partly Cloudy	63° / 50°
Osaka	Mostly Sunny	72° / 60°
Paris	Light Rain	67° / 55°
Busan	Partly Cloudy	69° / 53°
Rome	Sunny	78° / 52°
Salem	Rain	70° / 61°
San Francisco	Mostly Sunny	62° / 51°
Seoul	Partly Cloudy	68° / 48°
Tokyo	Sunny	68° / 53°
Washington, DC	Partly Cloudy	63° / 50°

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:12 AM	5:48 PM
Tuesday	6:12 AM	5:48 PM
Wednesday	6:13 AM	5:47 PM
Thursday	6:13 AM	5:47 PM
Friday	6:13 AM	5:46 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	1:48 AM	11:14 PM	-
Tuesday	12:45 PM	12:45 PM	-
Wednesday	-	12:17 AM	1:35 PM
Thursday	-	1:17 AM	2:20 PM
Friday	-	2:14 AM	3:01 PM

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY		FEET
5:49 AM	Low Tide	-0.41
1:45 PM	High Tide	1.75
7:02 PM	Low Tide	1.35
10:52 PM	High Tide	1.59

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF OCTOBER 6, 2022

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA117	9:50AM	10:30AM	Daily
UA156	6:30PM	7:15PM	6

GUAM-MANILA (MNL)

PR 111	6:00AM	8:00AM	Daily
UA193	7:05PM	10:55PM	5 via Palau
UA183	7:20PM	9:10PM	Daily

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

UA117/183	9:50AM	9:10PM	Daily via Guam
UA117/193	9:50AM	10:55PM	5 via Guam, Palau
OZ624/701	4:00PM	11:05AM+1	3,6 via Incheon

SAIPAN-INCHEON (ICN)

TW308	3:30PM	7:20PM	3, 4, 6, 7
7C3405	3:30PM	7:25PM	6
7C3405	3:50PM	7:45PM	3, 4, 7
OZ624	4:00PM	7:40PM	3, 6

SAIPAN-NARITA

UA824	7:00AM	9:30AM	1, 3, 5

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

7C3451	3:00PM	6:35PM	3, 7

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA174	8:00AM	8:45AM	Daily
UA112	4:40PM	5:30PM	6

MANILA (MNL)-GUAM

PR110	10:00PM	4:00AM+1	Daily
UA184	10:25PM	4:25AM+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 7
UA192	10:25PM	6:15AM+1	5 via Palau
UA184	11:50PM	5:40AM+1	5

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

UA184/174	10:25PM	8:45AM+1	1,2,3, 4, 6,7 via Guam
UA192/174	10:25PM	8:45AM+1	5 via Palau, Guam
UA192/112	10:25PM	5:30pm+1	5 via Palau, Guam
UA184/174	11:50PM	8:45AM+1	5 via Guam
UA184/112	11:50PM	5:30pm+1	5 via Guam
OZ704/623	11:55PM	2:30PM+1	2,5 via Incheon

INCHEON (ICN)-SAIPAN

7C3406	8:30AM	2:10PM	6
7C3406	8:50AM	2:30PM	4
7C3406	8:50AM	2:50PM	3, 7
OZ623	9:00AM	2:30PM	3, 6
TW307	9:00AM	2:30PM	4, 6, 7
TW307	9:15AM	2:30PM	3

NARITA-SAIPAN

UA825	9:25PM	2:00 AM+1	2, 4, 7

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

7C3452	9:00AM	2:00PM	3, 7

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines; PR, Philippine Airlines; TW, T'Way Air; OZ, Asiana Airlines; 7C, Jeju Air; BX, Air Busan • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

MARIANAS SOUTHERN AIRWAYS

INITIAL DAILY FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF AUGUST 18, 2022

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
7:00 A.M.	7:15 A.M.	(Except Sundays)
9:50 A.M.	10:05 A.M.	
4:00 P.M.	4:15 P.M.	(Except Saturdays)

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
7:35 A.M.	7:50 A.M.	(Except Sundays)
10:25 A.M.	10:40 A.M.	
4:35 P.M.	4:50 P.M.	(Except Saturdays)

SAIPAN TO ROTA

DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
8:10 A.M.	8:40 A.M.	
1:45 P.M.	2:15 P.M.	

ROTA TO SAIPAN

DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
9:00 A.M.	9:30 A.M.	
2:35 P.M.	3:05 P.M.	

SAIPAN TO GUAM

DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
11:10 A.M.	12:00 P.M.	
5:15 P.M.	6:05 P.M.	

GUAM TO SAIPAN

DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
12:30 P.M.	1:20 P.M.	
6:40 P.M.	7:30 P.M.	

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JUNE 1, 2022

SAIPAN TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
1301	8:30	9:00	Daily
1302	11:00	11:30	Mon/Wed/Fri
1302	12:00	12:30	Tues/Thurs/Sat/Sun
1303	15:30	16:00	Daily

ROTA TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
3101	9:30	10:00	Daily
3102	13:00	13:30	Tues/Thurs/Sat/Sun
3102	14:00	14:30	Mon/Wed/Fri
3103	16:30	17:00	Daily

ROTA TO GUAM

LIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
3401	12:00	12:30	Mon/Wed/Fri

GUAM TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
4301	13:00	13:30	Mon/Wed/Fri

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
1202	8:00	8:15	Daily
1203	9:00	9:15	Daily
1204	10:00	10:15	Daily
1208	14:00	14:15	Daily
1209	15:00	15:15	Daily
1210	16:00	16:15	Daily
1211	17:00	17:15	Daily

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
2102	8:30	8:45	Daily
2103	9:30	9:45	Daily
2104	10:30	10:45	Daily
2108	14:30	14:45	Daily
2109	15:30	15:45	Daily
2110	16:30	16:45	Daily
2111	17:30	17:45	Daily

Emergency communications, cybersecurity, broadband in the spotlight

Gov. Ralph DLG. Torres on Thursday greeted and spoke to visiting delegations from Guam, the Federated States of Micronesia, and the U.S. mainland representing regional governments, federal and state entities, and policy bodies throughout the Pacific who are meeting to discuss broadband, cybersecurity, and emergency communications. Torres thanked them for coming together to share their respective challenges and opportunities in the spirit of collaboration for growth.

"We are one. Every single one of us here today are here to see how we may improve the quality of life our people. Equal and greater access to broadband (such as highspeed Internet) lifts everyone. The Torres administration is investing millions of dollars to ensure faster delivery of educational material, consistent, efficient delivery of online government services, reliable and affordable access to broadband," said Torres.

"The more interconnected our islands become, the more criminals will exploit the internet for cyber-related crimes. The MS-ISAC, in partnership with the Marianas, will bolster a safe and secure connection for all our citizens," said Brendan Montagne, CIS Stakeholder Engagement Operations, MS-ISAC. MS-ISAC is a resource of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security for cyber threat prevention, protection, response and recovery for the nation's state, local, tribal, and territorial governments.

The Marianas Working Group, or MARWork, is a policy working designed to address issues of mutual concern and benefit among and between Guam and the CNMI. The working group has since garnered interest from throughout Micronesia and various federal entities. Thursday's technology symposium focuses on broadband, cybersecurity, and emergency communications, involving 60-plus subject matter experts.

"This symposium highlights some of the priorities that are top of mind for both the CNMI and Guam. Buildup of cyber defenses and broadband infrastructure enables a secure and connected internet experience, while emergency communications assure first responder agility to crisis events," said the CNMI chief information officer Clifford Aldan.

MARWork has seven working groups:

- Group 1: Labor
- Group 2: Commerce
- Group 3: Homeland Security & Public Safety
- Group 4: Public Health & Food Security
- Group 5: Education, Finance & Taxation
- Group 6: Land, Environment & Veteran's Affairs
- Group 7: Infrastructure and Telecommunications.

Culture, language, indigeneity, and gender is integrated into each of these working groups.

With critical matters constantly at the forefront, Torres strongly encourages the working group to formulate new ideas based on data-driven information and input from regional and national experts.

"We are one. Regional collaboration is key to improving the life, health and safety of our people," said Torres.

For additional information about the Mariånas Working Group, contact executive director Joe Mesa, at (670) 237-2200 or email at joe.mesa@gov.mp. You may also contact Governor's Chief of Staff Wil Castro via email at wil.castro@gov.mp. ***(PR)***

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

MAIN OFFICE: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, 2ND FLOOR ARRIVAL BLDG.
PO BOX 501055, SAIPAN, MP 96950
PHONE: (1-670) 237-6500/1 | FAX: (1-670) 234-5962
EMAIL: CPA.ADMIN@PTICOM.COM | WEBSITE: WWW.CNMIPORTS.COM

Request for Proposals for: CPA Concession No. CRS-2022-01

Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport "Car Rental Concession" CPA-RFP-011-22

The Commonwealth Ports Authority ("CPA" or "Authority") is soliciting proposals for the award of one (1) concession granting the privilege to provide motor vehicle rental services to the traveling public (including the provision of insurance related to motor vehicles rented in the operation of such motor vehicle rental services) at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport ("Car Rental Concession"). The successful proposer will be expected to provide motor vehicle rental services in accordance with its concession and concession agreement at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport for a period of eighteen (18) months (contract to end on 05/31/2024) upon entering into a concession agreement with the Authority.

The date of issuance of CPA-RFP-011-22 is **October 12, 2022**, and it can be obtained at the issuing office: CPA Administration Office, Saipan International Airport, P.O. Box 501055, Saipan, MP 96950, Second floor of Arrival terminal at the Saipan International Airport.

Proposals must be addressed to Commonwealth Ports Authority, Attn: Car Rental Concessions Evaluation Committee, CPA Administration Office, Saipan International Airport, P.O. Box 501055, Saipan, MP 96950; and submitted to and received by the CPA Administration Office (second floor of arrival terminal at the Saipan International Airport) **by or before 4:00 p.m. on November 22, 2022**, at which time the proposal period shall expire. Proposals must be accompanied with a non-refundable administrative fee of $100.00. Payment shall be made in cash, credit card, or cashier's check payable to the Commonwealth Ports Authority to defray the costs associated with handling and considering the proposal. Proposals are not required to include a prepaid minimum concession fee.

The Commonwealth Ports Authority reserves the right to cancel this RFP and to reject any and all proposals in accordance with its Concession Regulations (NMIAC Chapter 40-70).

/s/ CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO
Executive Director

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

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PO BOX 501055•SAIPAN•MP•96950
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WEBSITE: WWW.CNMIPORTS.COM

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

AIRLINE STAIRS & AMBULIFT MAINTENANCE SERVICE AND REPAIRS FRANCISCO C. ADA/SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT PROJECT NO. CPA-RFP-001-23

Notice is hereby given that the Commonwealth Ports Authority ("the CPA") is accepting sealed proposals, subject to the terms and conditions of this Request for Proposal ("the RFP") and other contract provisions, for awarding a contract to provide maintenance, service, and repairs to its airline stairs and ambulift truck at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport. The Executive Director hereby determines that the use of an Invitation for Bid is neither practical nor advantageous to the CPA because the CPA wishes to acquire services and/or products that cannot be evaluate by price alone (NMIAC § 40-50-225 (a)).

The Proposal Package is available for pick-up beginning October 10, 2022, at the Office of the Executive Director, 2nd Floor, Arrival Building, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport. Bidders must submit all required documents listed in the RFP Package. All responses to this RFP shall take into account any and/or all costs that will be charged the proposer awarded for this project. Proposers shall also take into consideration all necessary badging requirements and fees for this project.

Questions regarding this procurement should be submitted in writing to Christopher S. Tenorio, Executive Director, Commonwealth Ports Authority either by facsimile, or email cpa.receptionist@pticom.com with copy to atudela@cnmiports.com. on or before October 28, 2022.

All proposals shall be sealed and marked on the cover package outside as follows: "Airline Stairs & Ambulift maintenance service and repairs, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport /RFP-001-23". One (1) original and two (2) copies of the proposal must be submitted no later than **4:00 p.m. Local Time, November 11, 2022**, to the Office of the Executive Director at the Saipan International Airport. Proposals submitted by facsimile (fax) transmission will not be considered. Any proposals received after the submittal deadline shall be rejected and returned unopened.

The Commonwealth Ports Authority reserves the right to reject any or all proposals submitted for; (a) any of the reasons set forth in this RFP; (b) any of the reasons set forth in the CPA Procurement Rules and Regulations regarding bid/proposal rejection or cancellation; or (c) sufficient justification exists that awarding the proposal would not be in the best interest of CPA. The CPA further reserves the right to waive any defects in said proposals if in its sole opinion to do so would not be in CPA's best interest.

All proposals shall become the property of the Commonwealth Ports Authority. This RFP shall be executed as per the CPA Procurement Regulations.

FOR THE COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

/s/ CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO
Executive Director

Date 10/10/2022

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
2nd Floor Arrival Bldg.
P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950
Phone: (1-670) 237-6500/1 • Fax: (1-670) 234-5962
E-mail Address: cpa.admin@pticom.com
Website: www.cnmiports.com

NOTICE OF BOARD COMMITTEE MEETINGS

The Commonwealth Ports Authority hereby gives notice that there will be Board Committee Meetings on Thursday, November 03, 2022, at 9:30 a.m. in the Aircraft Rescue and Fire Fighting (ARFF) Classroom at the Airport Fire Station at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, Saipan.

AGENDA

PERSONNEL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

I. Call to Order, Roll Call, Adoption of Agenda, Adoption of Minutes (September 15, 2022)
II. Public Comments
III. Old Business: None.
IV. New Business:
  1. CPA Employee Handbook
  2. Revision of Position Description for IT
  3. Drug Policy
  4. Updated Personnel Affairs Committee Report
V. Executive Session (if needed)
VI. Miscellaneous/Announcements
VII. Adjournment

AIRPORT FACILITIES COMMITTEE

I. Call to Order, Roll Call, Adoption of Agenda, Adoption of Minutes (September 15, 2022)
II. Public Comments
III. Old Business:
  1. Solar Request for Proposal (RFP) Status Report
  2. Public-Private Partnership
  3. Adoption of Airport Rules and Regulations- Off-premises Car Rentals
IV. New Business:
  1. Request for Proposal for Owner Engineer Agent
  2. Updated Airport Facilities Committee Report
V. Executive Session (if needed)
VI. Miscellaneous/Announcements
VII. Adjournment

SEAPORT FACILITIES COMMITTEE

I. Call to Order, Roll Call, Adoption of Agenda, Adoption of Minutes (September 15, 2022)
II. Public Comments
III. Old Business:
  1. Mobil Oil Marianas Lease (Saipan Seaport)
IV. New Business:
  1. Saipan Shipping Lease
  2. Updated Seaport Facilities Committee Report
V. Executive Session (if needed)
VI. Miscellaneous/Announcements
VII. Adjournment

FINANCIAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

I. Call to Order, Roll Call, Adoption of Agenda, Adoption of Minutes (September 15, 2022)
II. Public Comments
III. Old Business:
  1. Audit Monitoring & Corrective Action
IV. New Business:
  1. Supplemental Budget Request: Saipan Airport Commuter Terminal Construction
  2. Supplemental Budget Request: Tinian International Airport Parking Lot Expansion
  3. Supplemental Budget Request: Saipan International Airport Emergency Taxiway Repairs
  4. Internal Auditor's Report
  5. Updated Financial Affairs Committee Report
V. Executive Session
VI. Miscellaneous/Announcements
VII. Adjournment

All interested persons are welcome to attend and to submit written or oral testimony on the above agenda items. A time limit may be imposed. Video Conferencing is also available via Zoom. Zoom link: Meeting ID: 837 9205 4697 Passcode: 435471

Barrie C. Toves, Airport Facilities Chair | Ramon A. Tebuteb, Financial Affairs Chair | Pete P. Reyes, Seaport Facilities Chair | Joseph M. Diaz, Personnel Affairs Chair

Port of Saipan
PO Box 501055, Saipan, MP 96950
Tel. (670) 664-3550/8
Fax. (A) 322-4710

Benjamin Taisacan Manglona International Airport
PO Box 561, Rota, MP 96951
Tel. (670) 532-9497 Fax. (670) 532-9499

Tinian International Airport/Seaport
PO Box 235, Tinian MP 96952
Tel. (670) 433-9294
Fax (670) 233-0790

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

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REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

DEVELOPMENT OF ECHO DOCK PORT OF SAIPAN CPA RFP NO. CPA-RFP-010-2022 (CPA CONCESSION NO. SEA 2022-01)

The Commonwealth Ports Authority ("Authority") is inviting qualified developers and their development teams to submit sealed proposals, subject to the terms and conditions of this Request for Proposals (the "RFP") and other contract provisions, for the development of Echo Dock, which is situated north of the Port of Saipan. The Executive Director hereby determines that the use of an Invitation for Bid is neither practical nor advantageous to the Authority because the Authority wishes to acquire services and products that cannot be evaluated by cost alone. This RFP is being issued pursuant to NMIAC § 40-70-205.

The RFP Package is available beginning Wednesday, August 31, 2022, at the Authority's Accounting Office, 2nd Floor, Departure Terminal Building, Saipan International Airport upon payment of a non-refundable administrative fee of $200.00. Payment shall be made in cash, credit card, cashier's check, or U.S. postal money order payable to the Commonwealth Ports Authority. Other than this administrative fee, proposers are not required to submit a prepaid minimum concession fee.

The Authority will hold a briefing for interested parties at 10:00 a.m. on Friday, September 16, 2022, to explain the Authority's development objectives, the RFP process, and to answer questions. The meeting will be held at the Authority's Seaport Conference Room, George Fleming Building. All potential applicants are encouraged to attend but it is not mandatory.

All proposers are requested to pay attention to the following significant dates and times:

Date RFP Package becomes available	August 31, 2022 (8:00 AM)
Date of RFP briefing meeting	September 16, 2022 (10:00 AM)
Deadline to submit Notice of Intent	September 28, 2022 (4:00 PM)
Deadline to submit Statement of Qualifications	October 13, 2022 (4:00 PM)
Notification of qualified applicants of the RFP	October 28, 2022
Deadline for RFP submission	November 30, 2022 (4:00 PM)

Qualified proposers shall submit their sealed proposals to the "CPA Evaluation Committee" and mark the outside cover of its submittal as follows: "RFP Proposal: Confidential - Development of the Echo Dock, Saipan (RFP-010-2022)." Five (5) hard copies and one electronic copy on CD, DVD, or flash drive of the proposal must be submitted no later than **4:00 p.m. CHST, Wednesday, November 30, 2022**, to the Office of the Executive Director, 2nd floor of the Arrival Terminal at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport. Proposals submitted by facsimile (fax) transmission will not be considered. Any proposals received after the proposal submittal deadline shall be returned to the proposer unopened. The Authority reserves the right to reject any or all proposals submitted if sufficient justification exist that awarding the project would not be in the best interest of the CPA.

FOR THE COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY:

/s/ CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO
Executive Director

Date 8/26/2022

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

MAIN OFFICE: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, 2ND FLOOR ARRIVAL BLDG.
PO BOX 501055•SAIPAN•MP•96950
PHONE: (1-670) 237-6500/1 • FAX: (1-670) 234-5962
E-MAIL ADDRESS: CPA.ADMIN@PTICOM.COM • WEBSITE: WWW.CNMIPORTS.COM

NOTICE OF REGULAR MEETING

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) hereby gives notice that a Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors will be held on Thursday, November 03, 2022, at 1:30 p.m. in the Aircraft Rescue and Fire Fighting (ARFF) Classroom at the Airport Fire Station at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, Saipan. The following items are on the agenda for the above-referenced meeting:

AGENDA

I. PRELIMINARY MATTERS
  1. Call to Order
  2. Roll Call
  3. Adoption of Agenda
  4. Adoption of Minutes (September 15 & 23, 2022)
II. PUBLIC COMMENT(S)
III. CORRESPONDENCES
IV. COMMITTEE REPORTS
  1. Financial Affairs Committee
  2. Airport Facilities Committee
  3. Seaport Facilities Committee
  4. Personnel Affairs Committee
V. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT
VI. OLD BUSINESS:
  1. Mobil Oil Marianas Lease (Saipan Seaport)
  2. Adoption of Airport Rules and Regulations – Off-premises Car Rentals
VII. NEW BUSINESS:
  1. Revision of Position Description for IT
  2. Supplemental Budget Request: Saipan Airport Commuter Terminal Construction
  3. Supplemental Budget Request: Tinian International Airport Parking Lot Expansion
  4. Supplemental Budget Request: Saipan International Airport Emergency Taxiway Repairs
  5. Request for Proposal for Owner Engineer Agent
  6. Saipan Shipping Lease
VIII. EXECUTIVE SESSION
  • Legal Counsel Reports: Legal matters/Litigation
IX. MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS
X. ADJOURNMENT

All interested persons are welcome to attend and to submit written or oral testimony on the above agenda items. A time limit may be imposed. Video Conferencing is also available via Zoom.
Zoom link: Meeting ID: 837 9205 4697 Passcode: 435471

KIMBERLYN KING-HINDS
Chairwoman, Board of Directors

October 27, 2022

CALLING ALL CNMI VOTERS! VOTE ALL REPUBLICANS!

Governor Ralph Dlg. Torres and
Lt. Governor Candidate Vinnie F. Sablan

Senatorial Candidate Angel Demapan and Janet U. Maratita

Saipan Mayor Candidate Lee Pan Tenorio Guerrero

Northern Islands Mayor Candidate Valentino Taisacan

Early Voting Schedule

November 1 – 7, 2022
8:30am – 4:30pm
Multi-Purpose Center, Susupe

Precinct 4

Precinct 1

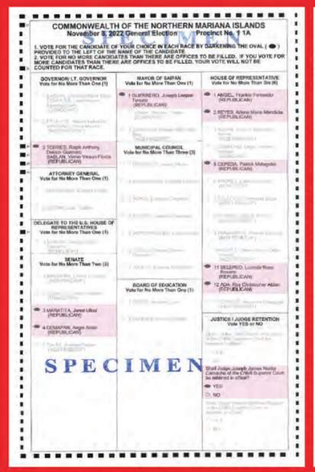
Precinct 2

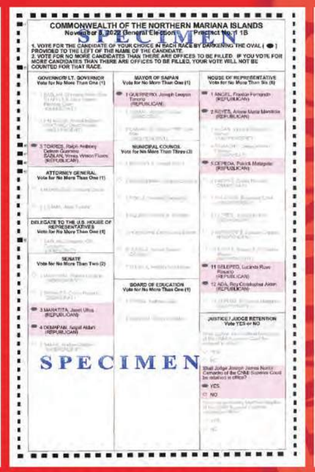
Precinct 3

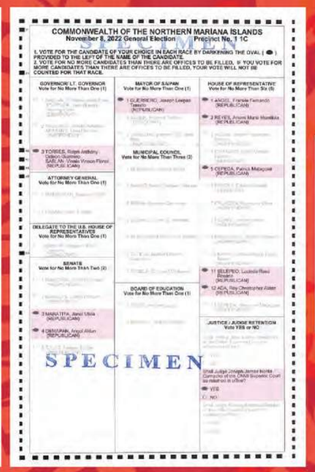
Precinct 5

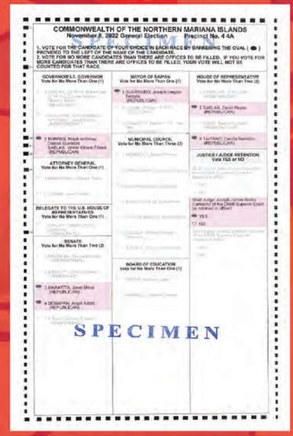
Precinct 6

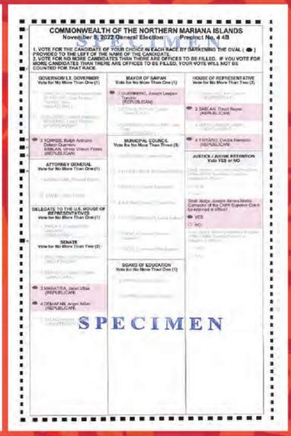
Precinct 7

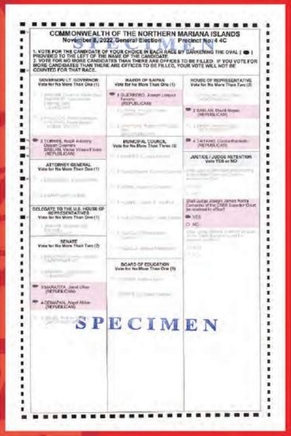


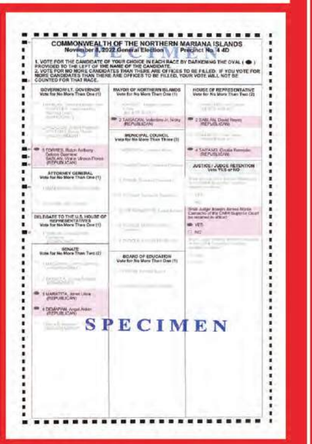


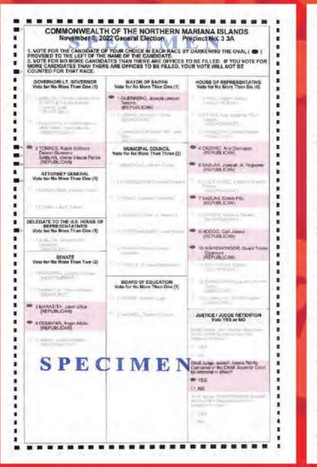


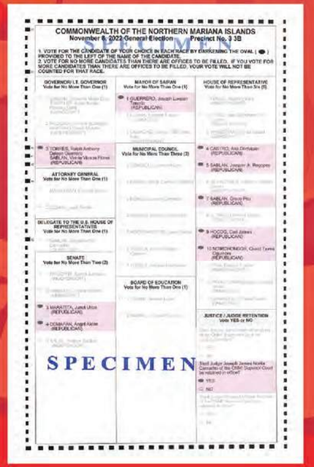


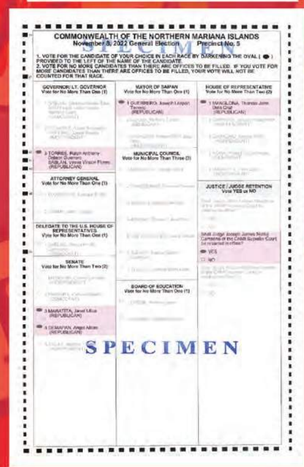


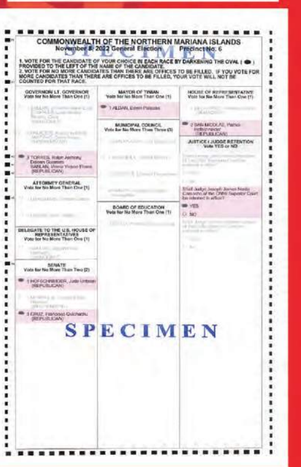


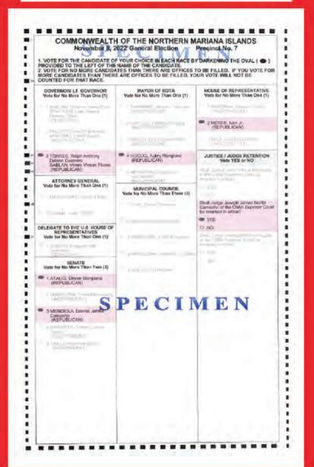












Paid for by the Republican Party of the CNMI, Ray Basa, Treasurer

Business

Hai Home widens island's home decor options

MARK RABAGO
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

The opening of home decor and supplies store Hai Home in Chala Laulau means there are now more choices for Saipan's discriminating customers.

"We have been preparing to start the business since April of this year and opened on June 8. I had an idea for a long time but I was afraid to open a store. We started with the purpose of being a small force in supplying necessary items to our small community," said manager Sarah Huang.

In a way, the COVID-19 pandemic provided the impetus for the establishment of Hai Home.

"The reason we opened the store during the pandemic was because when the pandemic hit we couldn't travel to other places and there are not many fun places to visit on Saipan. During the pandemic it was hard for people to get items so we took that idea in mind and decided to run this business, so that people wouldn't have to go off-island for their needs," said Huang.

As for naming the store Hai Home, she said Hai is the name of the owner and home means providing home supplies.

"It had to be friendly, and it had to be familiar to guests, so that's how it got its name. We at Hai Home do our best to provide better products at a better price and will treat our guests with the best service."

So far, the bestsellers at Hai Home are their fragrance items like reed stick diffusers, scented candles, oil diffusers, and incense stick products.

"If we dream of providing a service differentiated from other stores, we will put it into practice one by one," she said when asked about their selling philosophy.

While Hai Home presently has no promotions, Huang promises the community that they will be giving out huge discounts closer to the holiday season.

"There are currently no promotions, but for Christmas, we are preparing a lot of products and waiting for customers to visit. We are currently running a Facebook page, and we plan to operate an Instagram and website as well."

Hai Home is located along Middle Road next to McDonald's Gualo Rai in the same building as DHL. They are open everyday from 12pm to 7pm. For more information, call 670-234-0699.

MARK RABAGO
Hai Home is located along Middle Road next to McDonald's Gualo Rai in the same building as DHL.

Hai Home is open everyday from 12pm to 7pm. MARK RABAGO

MARK RABAGO
It's visibly already the Christmas season at Hai Home. Keep posted for discounts as we come closer to the holidays, according to manager Sarah Huang.

Trick or trash: Candy makers grapple with plastic waste

By DEE-ANN DURBIN
AP BUSINESS WRITER

Halloween treats have a tricky problem: plastic packaging that's difficult to recycle.

As America loads up on an estimated 600 million pounds of candy for Halloween, a handful of companies are trying to make it easier to recycle all those wrappers. But they acknowledge their efforts are only making a small dent and say more fundamental changes are needed.

Since the beginning of October, Mars — the maker of Snickers and M&Ms — has distributed 17,400 candy waste collection bags to U.S. consumers through its website and at community events. The bags can be filled with wrappers and packaging from any brand and mailed free to a specialty recycler in Illinois. That recycler, G2 Revolution, forms the packages into pellets and uses them to make waste bags for dogs.

The bags fit around 4 ounces of material; if all 17,400 are returned, that would equal more than 2 tons of recycled wrappers. But even then, the recycling program would still address just a fraction of the problem.

"What I'd like to see is this program actually goes away over time and we have a solution where it's no longer required and we're fully recyclable," said Tim LeBel, president of sales for Mars Wrigley U.S.

Mars is partnering with Lexington, Kentucky-based Rubicon Technologies, a consultant and software provider that connects companies and municipalities to recyclers. Since 2019, Rubicon has had its own program called Trick or Trash, which mails one free box to schools, businesses and community groups to collect candy wrappers for recycling. An additional box, or a box for personal use, is $100; Rubicon says that covers the cost of making the box, shipping it both ways and recycling the wrappers. Rubicon expects to send out 5,000 boxes this year.

Mars and Rubicon won't say how much they're spending on their Halloween programs. Rubicon notes that it pays extra to UPS to offset the carbon emissions from shipping.

Plastic wrappers are ideal for candy for lots of reasons. They're cheap and lightweight, which cuts down on shipping costs, said Muhammad Rabnawaz, an associate professor in the school of packaging at Michigan State University. They're also easy to modify for different functions; some might have a coating so candy doesn't stick to them, for example.

But plastic wrappers are a challenge for recycling companies. They often contain a mix of materials, like foil, which must be separated. They're small and flimsy, making it easy for them to bypass typical sorting equipment. They have to be cleaned to remove grease, oil and other food waste. They're multi-colored, so when they're mixed together they come out as an unappealing brown.

Even when companies do go to the effort of recycling candy wrappers, they produce such a low-value plastic that it doesn't recoup the cost of recycling.

"It's got to be profitable. These guys aren't social workers," said Brandon Wright, a spokesman for the National Waste and Recycling Association, which represents waste management companies.

As a result, a lot of plastic packaging ends up getting thrown away. According to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, containers and packaging made up 21% of trash going into landfills in 2018.

Elon Musk takes over Twitter

By BARBARA ORTUTAY, TOM KRISHER and MATT O'BRIEN
AP BUSINESS WRITERS

Twitter's newly minted owner, the self-described "free speech absolutist" Elon Musk, is about to get a crash course on global content moderation.

Among his first moves after completing his $44 billion takeover Thursday was to fire the social media platform's top executives, including the woman in charge of trust and safety at the platform, Vijaya Gadde.

He also posted a conciliatory note to wary advertisers, assuring them he won't allow Twitter to devolve into a "free-for-all hellscape."

The problem is, not even the world's richest man can have it both ways.

Lightly moderated "free speech" sites such as Gab and Parler serve as cautionary tales of what can happen when the guardrails are lowered. These small, niche sites are popular with conservatives and libertarians fed up with what they see as censorship of their viewpoints on mainstream platforms like Facebook. They are also full of Nazi imagery, racist slurs and other extreme content, including calls to violence.

Some conservative personalities jumped on Twitter Friday after Musk's takeover to recirculate long-debunked conspiracy theories in an apparent attempt to see if the site's policies on misinformation were still being enforced.

Advertisers don't want to promote their products next to disturbing, racist and hateful posts —and most people don't want to spend time on chaotic online spaces where they are barraged by racist and sexist trolls.

On Friday, GM announced it would be pausing advertising on Twitter while it figures out the direction of the platform under Musk. But Lou Paskalis, former head of media for Bank of America, said Twitter's most loyal advertisers, many Fortune 100 companies, believe in the platform and probably won't leave unless "some really untoward things" happen.

But it's not just ads and jokes that are at stake.

Eddie Perez, a former Twitter civic integrity team leader, said Musk seems to consider Twitter a digital public square where everyone has equal voice. It's a "quaint idea of the modern-day version of the town square," Perez said.

But that's not how the major social media platforms work. They have instead become powerful tools of asymmetric warfare, and many of their users don't realize they are being manipulated with disinformation by nation states and bad domestic actors—many with significant resources.

Nation

Pelosi attack shocks US already on edge about democracy threats

WASHINGTON (AP)—An America that can already feel like it's hurtling toward political disintegration has been jolted yet again, this time by the violent attack on the husband of House Speaker Nancy Pelosi less than two weeks before Election Day.

Seizing a hammer and leaving a trail of broken glass, an intruder broke into the couple's San Francisco home early Friday and repeatedly struck Paul Pelosi, 82. He had surgery to repair a skull fracture and serious injuries to his right arm and hands, and his doctors expect a full recovery, the speaker's office said.

The assailant confronted Paul Pelosi by shouting, "Where is Nancy," according to another person familiar with the situation who was granted anonymity to discuss it. The Democratic congresswoman was in Washington at the time.

The calling out of her name was a sign that the assault could have targeted the lawmaker, who as speaker is second in line to the presidency. The ambush was a particularly savage reminder of the extremism that has coursed through American politics in recent years, adding to a sense of foreboding with the Nov. 8 election nearly at hand.

Armed watchers are staking out ballot drop boxes in Arizona to guard against false conspiracies about voter fraud. Threats against members of Congress have risen to historic levels. Public opinion surveys show fears for a fragile democracy and even of a civil war. Former President Donald Trump continues to deny that he lost the 2020 election to President Joe Biden, and his acolytes are attempting to consolidate their power over future elections.

A new domestic intelligence assessment from the Department of Homeland Security and other agencies said extremists fueled by election falsehoods "pose a heightened threat" to the upcoming midterms.

The assessment, dated Friday, said the greatest danger was "posed by lone offenders who leverage election-related issues to justify violence."

"It is worse than it's ever been," said Cornell Belcher, a Democratic pollster. "This is uncharted waters." Belcher blamed "the mainstreaming of behavior in politics that was, once upon a time, left or right, abhorrent."

Police have not identified a motive for the attack on Pelosi's husband. Judging by social media posts, the suspect appears to have been stewing in a mix of conspiracy theories about elections and the coronavirus pandemic.

Pelosi

"It's bad regardless of the reasons, but if it's politically motivated, it's just another example of political violence and irresponsibility of folks who are opening the door to that type of violence against other elected officials," Michigan Sen. Gary Peters, chairman of the Senate Democrats' campaign arm, said in an interview. "It's a very sad time for our country right now."

Politicians from both parties expressed outrage about the assault.

"This attack is shocking, and Americans should worry because it is becoming more common," said Joe O'Dea, a Republican candidate for Senate in Colorado. "Partisanship and polarization are tearing the country apart."

Some responses, however, reflected a sharp sense of partisanship.

Gov. Glenn Youngkin, R-Va., worked the incident into his remarks at a campaign stop for a congressional candidate as he called for Democrats to lose power in Congress.

"There's no room for violence anywhere, but we're going to send her back to be with him in California," Youngkin said. "That's what we're going to go do."

From the Civil War and attacks on Black voters during Jim Crow to the assassination of elected leaders like John and Robert Kennedy, the United States has experienced spasms of political violence. No party or ideology has a monopoly on it.

Five years ago, a left-wing activist opened fire on Republicans as they practiced for an annual charity baseball game. Rep. Steve Scalise of Louisiana was critically wounded. In 2011, then-Rep. Gabrielle Giffords, D-Ariz., was shot in the head at an event outside a Tucson grocery store.

Today, violent rhetoric and imagery have become a staple of right wing politics in the United States, and it escalated during Donald Trump's presidency. Democrats viewed the intrusion into Pelosi's home as an extension of the attack on the U.S. Capitol on Jan. 6, 2021, when Trump's supporters interrupted the peaceful transition of power to Biden.

On that day, protesters searched for Pelosi and chanted that they wanted to hang then-Vice President Mike Pence, who had defied Trump's demands to overturn the election results.

NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION
Community Development Block Grant - Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) Program

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

OPENING DATE: October 25, 2022 CLOSING DATE: November 10, 2022 TIME: 4:00 P.M.

NMHC JVA NO.	Positions:	Salary:
2023-001	1-CDBG-DR Compliance Specialist-Saipan	$25,000.00-$30,000.00 -per annum- UNGRADED
2023-002	2-Staff Engineer Civil/Structural	$70,000.00-$100,000.00 per annum- UNGRADED

Employment application form, detailed job description, qualification requirements and other information may be accessed at www.nmhcgov.net.

Applicants may submit their applications through the following options: Submission at the at the NMHC Central Office in Garapan, Saipan; or at the Drop Box located in front of the NMHC Central Office building; or email application and documents to officemanager@nmhcgov.net.

All applicants must complete and submit the NMHC Employment Application Form together with required documents that are listed in the Employment Application Package. Failure to provide the required documents will result in automatic disqualification. NMHC and all its properties are drug-free zones; therefore, selected applicant will be subject to pre-employment drug screening.

It is the policy of the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) that the merit system will be applied and administered according to the principle of equal opportunity for all citizens and nationals as defined by its personnel regulations and the Northern Marianas Commonwealth Constitution regardless of age, race, sex, religion, political affiliation or belief, marital status, disability or place of origin.

For inquiries, please contact Mr. Jacob Muna, Office Manager, at (670) 234-6866/9447or by email to officemanager@nmhcgov.net. NMHC is a fair housing agency and an equal opportunity provider, lender and employer.

/s/
JESSE S. PALACIOS
Corporate Director

COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION

Tels: (670) 234-6866
234-9447
234-7689
234-7670
Fax: (670) 234-9021

PUBLIC NOTICE

10/27/2022
This Notice is paid by NMHC with HUD funds.

NOTICE OF FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT AND NOTICE OF INTENT TO REQUEST A RELEASE OF FUNDS

Government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Northern Marianas Housing Corporation
Saipan, MP 96950 Tel: (670) 234-9447/6866

This notice shall satisfy the above-cited two separate but related procedural notification requirements.

REQUEST FOR RELEASE OF FUNDS

On or after November 14, 2022, the Government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands will submit a request to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, Washington D.C., for the release of Community Development Block Grant Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) Supplemental Appropriations for Disaster Relief Act, 2019 P.L. 116-20, enacted on January 27, 2020, announced via Federal Register Notice, to undertake the following activity and purposes in Tinian, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands:

Project Activity/Type:
Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) Underground Service to Critical Loads Project

The CUC proposes to construct an underground primary powerline to power electric service for various critical loads to assure loads maintain electric service during extreme weather events. The project is to connect underground electric services as a primary line to the Tinian Elementary School and Head Start Kindergarten, Social Hall, Tinian Health Center, Tinian Department of Public Safety, Tinian Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services, Tinian Court House, Tinian High School, Bank of Guam, Tinian Commerce, Tinian Gymnasium and Tinian Civic Center.

Purpose:
The effects of typhoon Yutu reflected the need for a secure and consistent power supply to critical needs of the island. The devastation caused delays in basic infrastructure necessities of power and water for the island residents. One way to eliminate timely assistance is to provide critical power to strategically service oriented locations that will assist the island quickly after a severe weather events. This project will lessen the impact recovery of the island to a more manageable control with the basic need of utilities to need of the residents.

Location:
Tinian, MP 96952

Total Project Cost:
$11,332,693.00 in CDBG-DR funding
No other funding sources were identified

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

The Government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands has determined that the above-listed projects will have no significant impact on the human environment. Therefore, an Environmental Impact Statement under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA) is not required. Additional project information is contained in the Environmental Review Record (ERR) and is ready for public viewing on the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) website at www.nmhcgov.net or www.cnmi-cdbgdr.com; or you may visit the on file at the NMHC Central Office in Garapan, Saipan or NMHC CDBG-DR Office in Beach Road Chalan Laulau, Saipan during regular working hours, Monday through Friday except CNMI Holidays, from 7:30 A.M. to 4:30 P.M.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Any individual, group or agency disagreeing with this determination or wishing to comment on the project may submit written comments to the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation. You may submit comments from the following options: Via mail to P.O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950; Direct delivery to the central office in Garapan, Saipan or drop-box located in front of the building; and Via email at nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp. All comments received by **November 14, 2022, 4:00 p.m.**, will be considered by the Government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands prior to authorizing submission of a request for release of funds. Commentors should specify which part of this Notice they are addressing.

RELEASE OF FUNDS

The Government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands certifies to the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), Washington D.C. that the Government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands and Governor Ralph DLG. Torres consent to accept the jurisdiction of the Federal Courts if an action is brought to enforce responsibilities in relation to the environmental review process, and that these responsibilities have been satisfied. The U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), Washington D.C. acceptance of the certification satisfies its responsibilities under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 and related laws and authorities, and allows the Government of the Northern Mariana Islands to use Program Funds.

OBJECTION TO RELEASE OF FUNDS

The U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Washington D.C. will accept objections to its release of funds and the Government of the Northern Mariana Islands certification for a period of **fifteen days** following anticipated submission date or its actual receipt of the request (whichever is later) only if it is on one of the following bases: (a) the certification was not executed by the Certifying Officer of the Government of the Northern Mariana Islands; (b) the Government of the Northern Mariana Islands has omitted a step or failed to make a decision or finding required by the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development regulations at 24 CFR Part 58; (c) the grant recipient has incurred cost not authorized by 24 CFR Part 58 before approval of the release of funds by the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development; or (d) another Federal agency acting pursuant to 40 CFR Part 1504 has submitted a written finding that the project is unsatisfactory from the standpoint of environmental quality. Objections must be prepared and submitted in accordance with the required procedures of 24 CFR Part 58 and shall be addressed to Ms. Tennille Smith Parker, DRSI Division Director, HUD, via email at Tennille.S.Parker@hud.gov ; Tel: (202)402-4649. Potential objectors should contact the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development to verify the actual last day of the objection period.

/s/
Ralph DLG Torres
Governor, CNMI

Asia

PH storm victims feared tsunami, ran toward mudslide

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Victims of a huge mudslide set off by a storm in a coastal Philippine village that had once been devastated by a killer tsunami mistakenly thought a tidal wave was coming and ran to higher ground toward a mountain and were buried alive, an official said Sunday.

At least 18 bodies have been dug out by rescuers in the vast muddy mound that now covers much of Kusiong village in southern Maguindanao province, among the hardest-hit by Tropical Storm Nalgae, which blew out of the northwestern Philippines early Sunday.

Officials fear 80 to 100 more people, including entire families, may have been buried by the deluge or washed away by flash floods in Kusiong between Thursday night and early Friday, according to Naguib Sinarimbo, the interior minister for a Muslim autonomous region run by former separatist guerrillas.

Nalgae, which had a vast rain band, left more than 50 people dead in a wide swath of the Philippine archipelago, including in Kusiong, and a trail of destruction in one of the world's most disaster-prone countries.

The catastrophe in Kusiong, populated mostly by the Teduray ethnic minority group, was tragic because its more than 2,000 villagers have carried out disaster-preparedness drills every year for decades to brace for a tsunami because of a deadly history. But they were not as prepared for the dangers that could come from Mount Minandar, where their village lies at the foothills, Sinarimbo said.

AP

In this handout photo provided by the Philippine Coast Guard, rescuers evacuate residents at a flooded village in Tuguegarao city, Cagayan province, northern Philippines on Sunday Oct. 30, 2022.

"When the people heard the warning bells, they ran up and gathered in a church on a high ground," Sinarimbo told The Associated Press, citing accounts by Kusiong villagers.

"The problem was, it was not a tsunami that inundated them but a big volume of water and mud that came down from the mountain," he said.

In August 1976, an 8.1-magnitude earthquake and a tsunami in the Moro Gulf that struck around midnight left thousands of people dead and devastated coastal provinces in one of the deadliest natural disasters in Philippine history.

Lying between the Moro Gulf and Mount Minandar, Kusiong was among the hardest hit by the 1976 catastrophe and the village never forgot the tragedy. Elderly villagers, who survived the tsunami and powerful earthquake, passed on the nightmarish story to their children, warning them to be prepared.

"Every year, they hold drills to brace for a tsunami. Somebody was assigned to bang the alarm bells and they designated high grounds where people should run to," Sinarimbo said. "Villagers were even taught the sound of an approaching big wave based on the recollection of the tsunami survivors."

"But there wasn't as much focus on the geo-hazards on the mountainside," he said.

Bulldozers, backhoes and payloaders were brought to Kusiong on Saturday with more than 100 rescuers from the army, police and volunteers from other provinces, but they were unable to dig at a spot where survivors said the church lay underneath because the muddy mound was still dangerously soft, officials said.

The national disaster-response agency reported 22 missing from the storm's onslaught in several provinces. Sinarimbo said many of the missing in Kusiong were not included in the government's official tally because entire families may have been buried and no member was left to provide names and details to authorities.

Army Lt. Col. Dennis Almorato, who went to the mudslide-hit community Saturday, said the muddy deluge buried about 60 rural houses in about 5 hectares (12 acres) of the community. He gave no estimate of how many villagers may have been buried but described the extent of the mudslide as "overwhelming" and said the nighttime disaster may have unfolded fast.

A regional army commander, Major Gen. Roy Galido, has been ordered to lead an emergency command center to head search and retrieval work in Kusiong, officials said.

The stormy weather in a large swath of the country prompted the coast guard to prohibit sea travel in dangerously rough seas as millions of Filipinos planned to travel over a long weekend for visits to relatives' tombs and for family reunions on All Saints' Day in the largely Roman Catholic nation.

N. Korea fires missiles toward sea as US warns over nukes

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—North Korea fired two short-range ballistic missiles toward the sea on Friday in its first ballistic weapons launches in two weeks, as the U.S. military warned the North that the use of nuclear weapons "will result in the end of that regime."

South Korea's military detected the two launches from the North's eastern coastal Tongchon area around midday on Friday, Seoul's Joint Chiefs of Staff said in a statement. It said both missiles flew about 230 kilometers (140 miles) at a maximum altitude of 24 kilometers (15 miles).

The statement said South Korea strongly condemns the launches, calling them "a grave provocation" that undermines regional peace and violates U.N. Security Council resolutions banning any ballistic activities by North Korea.

The U.S. Indo Pacific Command said the launches highlighted the "destabilizing impact" of North Korea's illicit nuclear weapons and ballistic missile programs. The Japanese Defense Ministry said it also detected the launches and that the type of missiles used and their flight information were still being analyzed.

South Korea's Foreign Ministry said its top nuclear envoy held separate phone talks with his U.S. and Japanese counterparts soon after the launches. It said the three agreed to strengthen trilateral coordination on North Korea while repeating their calls for the North to stop weapons tests and return to talks.

The back-to-back launches, the North's first ballistic missile tests since Oct. 14, came on the final day of South Korea's annual 12-day "Hoguk" field exercises, which also involved an unspecified number of U.S. troops this year. Next week, South Korean and U.S. air forces plan to conduct a large-scale training as well.

North Korea sees such regular drills by Seoul and Washington as practice for launching an attack on the North, though the allies say their exercises are defensive in nature.

Next week's "Vigilant Storm" aerial drills are to run from Monday to Friday and involve about 140 South Korean warplanes and about 100 U.S. aircraft. The planes include sophisticated fighter jets like F-35 from both nations, South Korea's Defense Ministry said in a statement earlier Friday.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Japan Cabinet OKs $200B spending plan to counter inflation

TOKYO (AP)—Japan's Cabinet approved Friday a hefty economic package including 29 trillion yen ($200 billion) in government spending to counter the blow to household budgets from inflation, signaling that the greater concern of its policymakers is that the economy will stall, not overheat.

While central banks around the world are raising interest rates aggressively to try to tame decades-high inflation, with its own inflation rate near 3%, Japan has stuck mainly to using fiscal measures, or government spending, to counter that challenge.

The Bank of Japan underscored that when, wrapping up a policy meeting Friday, it stuck to its longstanding policy of keeping its benchmark interest rate at minus 0.1%.

The Federal Reserve has been aggressively raising borrowing costs to combat chronic inflation, raising interest rates five times this year. It's set to do so again next week and in December, while warning that the hikes will likely bring higher unemployment and possibly a recession.

Pakistani minister hints at action against Imran Khan convoy

ISLAMABAD (AP)—Pakistan's interior minister alleged on Saturday that the country's former premier, Imran Khan, who is leading an opposition convoy of thousands of supporters toward Islamabad, plans to use his march to spread "violence and chaos."

Speaking to reporters in the Pakistani capital, Interior Minister Rana Sanaullah, offered as evidence for his claim an audiotape with a discussion — purportedly between Ali Amin Gandapur, a close Khan aide, and an unidentified person — about "arranging weapons and men" near Islamabad.

The recording and Sanuallah's claim could not be independently verified. Khan, who is on the road leading his followers toward Islamabad, did not immediately react to the allegations.

Khan's convoy departed on Friday from the eastern city of Lahore. He stopped on Saturday in the suburban town of Shahdara nearby and was expected to reach Islamabad sometime next week.

India to contribute $500,000 to UN to counter terrorism

NEW DELHI (AP—India will contribute half a million dollars to the United Nations' efforts to counter global terrorism as new and emerging technologies used by terror groups pose fresh threats to governments around the world, the foreign minister said Saturday.

The money will go toward the U.N. Trust Fund for Counter Terrorism and will further strengthen the organization's fight against terrorism, S. Jaishankar said as he addressed a special meeting of the U.N. Counter Terrorism Committee in New Delhi.

It was the first such conference — focused on challenging threats posed by terror groups in the face of new technologies — to be held outside the U.N.'s headquarters in New York.

Jaishankar said new technologies, like encrypted messaging services and blockchain, are increasingly misused by terror groups and malicious actors, sparking an urgent need for the international community to adopt measures to combat the threats.

World

Somalia's president says at least 100 killed in car bombings

MOGADISHU, Somalia (AP)—Somalia's president says at least 100 people were killed in Saturday's two car bombings at a busy junction in the capital and the toll could rise in the country's deadliest attack since a truck bombing at the same spot five years ago killed more than 500.

President Hassan Sheikh Mohamud, at the site of the explosions in Mogadishu, told journalists that nearly 300 other people were wounded. "We ask our international partners and Muslims around the world to send their medical doctors here since we can't send all the victims outside the country for treatment," he said.

The al-Qaida-linked al-Shabab extremist group, which often targets the capital and controls large parts of the country, claimed responsibility, saying it targeted the education ministry. It claimed the ministry was an "enemy base" that receives support from non-Muslim countries and "is committed to removing Somali children from the Islamic faith."

Al-Shabab usually doesn't make claims of responsibility when large numbers of civilians are killed, as in the 2017 blast, but it has been angered by a high-profile new offensive by the government that also aims to shut down its financial network. The group said it is committed to fighting until the country is ruled by Islamic law, and it asked civilians to stay away from government areas.

AP

Rescuers remove a seriously-injured body from the scene of a double car-bomb attack in the capital Mogadishu, Somalia Saturday, Oct. 29, 2022.

Somalia's president, elected this year, said the country remained at war with al-Shabab "and we are winning."

The attack in Mogadishu occurred on a day when the president, prime minister and other senior officials were meeting to discuss expanded efforts to combat violent extremism and especially al-Shabab. The extremists, who seek an Islamic state, have responded to the offensive by killing prominent clan leaders in an apparent effort to dissuade grassroots support.

The attack has overwhelmed first responders in Somalia, which has one of the world's weakest health systems after decades of conflict. At hospitals and elsewhere, frantic relatives peeked under plastic sheeting and into body bags, looking for loved ones.

Halima Duwane was searching for her uncle, Abdullahi Jama. "We don't know whether he is dead or alive but the last time we communicated he was around here," she said, crying.

Witnesses to the attack were stunned. "I couldn't count the bodies on the ground due to the (number of) fatalities," witness Abdirazak Hassan said. He said the first blast hit the perimeter wall of the education ministry, where street vendors and money changers were located.

An Associated Press journalist at the scene said the second blast occurred in front of a busy restaurant during lunchtime. The blasts demolished tuk-tuks and other vehicles in an area of many restaurants and hotels.

The Somali Journalists Syndicate, citing colleagues and police, said one journalist was killed and two others wounded by the second blast while rushing to the scene of the first. The Aamin ambulance service said the second blast destroyed one of its responding vehicles.

It was not immediately clear how vehicles loaded with explosives again made it to the high-profile location in Mogadishu, a city thick with checkpoints and constantly on alert for attacks.

The United States has described al-Shabab as one of al-Qaida's deadliest organizations and targeted it with scores of airstrikes in recent years. Hundreds of U.S. military personnel have returned to the country after former President Donald Trump withdrew them.

Russia suspends Ukraine grain deal over ship attack claim

KYIV, Ukraine (AP)—Russia announced Saturday that it will immediately suspend its implementation of a U.N.-brokered grain deal that has seen more than 9 million tons of grain exported from Ukraine during the war and has brought down soaring global food prices. Ukraine accused Russia of creating a world "hunger games."

The Russian Defense Ministry cited an alleged Ukrainian drone attack Saturday against Russia's Black Sea Fleet ships moored off the coast of occupied Crimea as the reason for the move. Ukraine has denied the attack, saying that the Russians mishandled their own weapons.

The Russian declaration came one day after U.N. chief Antonio Guterres urged Russia and Ukraine to renew the grain export deal, which was scheduled to expire on Nov. 19. Guterres also urged other countries, mainly in the West, to expedite the removal of obstacles blocking Russian grain and fertilizer exports.

The U.N. chief said the grain deal — brokered by the United Nations and Turkey in July — helps "to cushion the suffering that this global cost-of-living crisis is inflicting on billions of people," his spokesman said.

U.N. officials were in touch with Russian authorities over the announced suspension.

"It is vital that all parties refrain from any action that would imperil the Black Sea Grain Initiative, which is a critical humanitarian effort that is clearly having a positive impact on access to food for millions of people," said Guterres' spokesman, Stephane Dujarric.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy called the Russian move "predictable." He accused Moscow of "blockading" ships carrying grain since September. Currently, he said, 176 vessels are backed up at sea, carrying more than 2 million tons of food.

"This is a transparent attempt by Russia to return to the threat of large-scale famine in Africa and Asia," Zelenskyy said Saturday in his nightly video address. He called for a tough response against Russia from international bodies like the U.N. and the G-20.

Ukraine's Foreign Minister, Dmytro Kuleba, accused Russia of playing "hunger games" by imperiling global food shipments.

In Washington, U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken said the suspension was regrettable and urged "all parties to keep this essential, life-saving Initiative functioning."

"Any act by Russia to disrupt these critical grain exports is essentially a statement that people and families around the world should pay more for food or go hungry," Blinken said in a statement Saturday night. "In suspending this arrangement, Russia is again weaponizing food in the war it started, directly impacting low- and middle-income countries and global food prices, and exacerbating already dire humanitarian crises and food insecurity."

Russia's Foreign Ministry on Saturday accused British specialists of being involved in the alleged attack by drones on Russian ships in Crimea. Britain's Defense Ministry had no immediate comment on the claim.

"In connection with the actions of Ukrainian armed forces, led by British specialists, directed, among other things, against Russian ships that ensure the functioning of the humanitarian corridor in question (which cannot be qualified otherwise than as a terrorist attack), the Russian side cannot guarantee the safety of civilian dry cargo ships participating in the Black Sea initiative, and suspends its implementation from today for an indefinite period," the Russian statement said.

Ukraine's Ministry of Infrastructure said that Ukraine has never threatened the Black Sea grain corridor which "is exclusively humanitarian in nature," and would continue to try to keep shipments going. It said since the first ship left Odesa on Aug. 1, more than 9 million tons of food have been exported, including more than 5 million tons to African and Asian countries. As part of the U.N. World Food Program, it said, 190 thousand tons of wheat have been sent to countries where there is hunger.

Russia also requested a meeting Monday of the U.N. Security Council because of the alleged attack on the Black Sea Fleet and the security of the grain corridor, said Dmitry Polyansky, Russia's first deputy representative to the U.N.

Russia's agriculture minister said Moscow stands ready to "fully replace Ukrainian grain and deliver supplies at affordable prices to all interested countries." In remarks carried by the state Rossiya 24 TV channel, Dmitry Patrushev said Moscow was prepared to "supply up to 500,000 tons of grain to the poorest countries free of charge in the next four months," with the help of Turkey.

Earlier Saturday, Ukraine and Russia offered differing versions on the Crimea drone attack in which at least one Russian ship suffered damage in Sevastopol, a key port on the Ukrainian peninsula annexed by Moscow in 2014.

Brazil's polarizing Bolsonaro-Lula contest goes to voters

RIO DE JANEIRO (AP)—Brazilians vote Sunday in a polarizing presidential runoff election that pits an incumbent vowing to safeguard conservative Christian values against a former president promising to return the country to a more prosperous past.

The runoff shaped up as a close contest between President Jair Bolsonaro and his political nemesis, former President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva. Both are well-known, divisive political figures who stir passion as much as loathing.

The vote will determine if the world's fourth-largest democracy stays the same course of far-right politics or returns a leftist to the top job — and, in the latter case, whether Bolsonaro will accept defeat.

More than 120 million Brazilians are expected to cast ballots, but because the vote is conducted electronically, the final result is usually available within hours after voting stations close in late afternoon. Most opinion polls gave a lead to da Silva, universally known as Lula, though political analysts agreed the race grew increasingly tight in recent weeks.

For months, it appeared that da Silva was headed for easy victory as he kindled nostalgia for his 2003-2010 presidency, when Brazil's economy was booming and welfare helped tens of millions join the middle class.

But in the Oct. 2 first-round elections, da Silva finished first among the 11 candidates with 48% of the votes, while Bolsonaro was second at 43%, showing opinion polls significantly underestimated the president's popularity. Many Brazilians support Bolsonaro's defense of conservative social values and he has shored up support with vast government spending.

Candidates in Brazil who finish ahead in the first round tend to win the runoff. But political scientist Rodrigo Prando said this campaign is so atypical that a Bolsonaro win could not be ruled out. The president secured endorsements from governors of the three most populous states, and allied politicians scored big wins in congressional races.

"Politically, Bolsonaro is stronger than had been imagined," said Prando, a professor at Mackenzie Presbyterian University in Sao Paulo. "Mathematically, Lula is in front."

Twelve gubernatorial races will also be decided, among them Brazil's most populous state, Sao Paulo, Amazonas state and northeastern Bahia state.

Health & Wellness

This advertorial is sponsored by Tan Holdings HEALTH IS WEALTH Tan Siu Lin Foundation

Respiratory viruses are catching up to kids after years of COVID precautions

By MARIN WOLF
THE DALLAS MORNING NEWS

ANDREY POPOV/DREAMSTIME/TNS
For most people, RSV causes mild, cold-like symptoms, including a stuffy nose, cough and fever, but the virus can be serious or even fatal for infants, children with compromised immune systems and the elderly.

DALLAS—Now that masking rules have been relaxed and school schedules have largely returned to their pre-pandemic normals, children are finally catching the viruses they hadn't previously contracted, health experts say.

Pediatric health care systems reported high levels of respiratory syncytial virus, known as RSV, and influenza over the last month as children experience their first fall without COVID-induced public health measures.

Dallas-based Children's Health saw 316 RSV cases in the week ending Oct. 25, compared to only 73 cases in the same week in 2021. Cook Children's in Fort Worth reported 246 cases of the respiratory illness from Oct. 16 to Oct. 22, a significant increase from the about 50 cases seen during the same period last year. Patients with RSV currently fill half of the beds in Cook's pediatric ICU.

For most people, RSV causes mild, cold-like symptoms, including a stuffy nose, cough and fever, but the virus can be serious or even fatal for infants, children with compromised immune systems and the elderly. The virus is seeing unseasonably high case numbers nationwide.

"Normally, we don't see a significant spike in RSV cases until the very end of October into December," said Cook Children's hospitalist Dr. Laura Romano. "For the past month, we've seen an exponential increase in cases, which was not expected at all, and it's concerning because we don't know when we'll hit the peak."

Respiratory illnesses that historically followed a predictable schedule have been thrown out of whack following two years of the COVID-19 pandemic. Masking and online schooling to prevent the spread of the coronavirus also prevented outbreaks of the flu, RSV and the common cold in children.

"For the toddler set, this is the first time that they are perhaps engaged in a group childcare environment, or doing activities with members outside of their family, so this is their first exposure to these respiratory viral illnesses," said Dr. Preeti Sharma, a UT Southwestern pediatric pulmonologist who works at Children's Health.

"There were kids who were very sheltered for a few years, and so there's low levels of circulating antibodies in that population," she said.

The number of flu cases, though relatively low, is increasing much faster than in years prior. Dallas County reported 102 positive flu tests for the week ending Oct. 15, nearly 8 times the 13 total cases reported for the same week in 2021.

And hospitals, currently enjoying a much-needed lull in COVID-19 cases, are waiting to see if and when the virus will spike again. Some European countries like Germany, Austria and Italy are already reporting rising case numbers, and new, highly-contagious omicron subvariants BQ.1 and BQ.1.1 are spreading in parts of the U.S.

Doctors and other health officials say they hope this winter season won't prove to be as bad as last year's omicron-fueled COVID surge, but it's too soon to tell whether the increase in so many viral illnesses at once will spell trouble for local health care systems.

"As we get into the cooler months, if we do have COVID and we have RSV and other respiratory illnesses like the flu, it could be a challenging winter," said Steve Love, CEO and president of the Dallas-Fort Worth Hospital Council. "I'm not suggesting it's like the height of the pandemic, but what I am suggesting is that it could bring some pretty high volumes of patients."

Most children will handle these respiratory illnesses well, even though they might feel crummy for a few days. Parents should seek medical care, however, if they notice their child having any difficulty breathing, Romano said.

"If they're breathing faster than usual, the belly going in and out, the skin between the ribs is sucked in, they need to be seen by someone sooner rather than later," she said. "That's when we would advise parents: Don't call their pediatrician but just bring them to an urgent care or to an emergency room."

Parents should also be aware of any signs of dehydration, especially in babies, like not producing many wet diapers, not producing tears while crying or seeing their soft spots seeming sunken in.

The best way to prevent the spread of these illnesses is through practicing good health hygiene, like regular hand washing and staying home if you or your child is sick. Vaccinations against the flu and COVID-19 are available for different age groups.

Anyone 6-months and older can receive the flu shot and the initial COVID-19 vaccine series. The new bivalent booster dose, which protects against both the original and omicron COVID-19 strains, is available for anyone 5 and older who received their previous COVID-19 dose at least two months prior.

ON NUTRITION

Farmers are incredible

By BARBARA INTERMILL
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

In the next 40 years, farmers need to produce more food than in the last 10,000 years combined. DUSAN KOSTIC/DREAMSTIME/TNS

I was pleased and surprised to see all the press last week about America's farmers. Then I learned I had totally missed National Farmers Day.

Oh well, in my mind every day should be Farmers Day, since these unsung heroes care for their land and animals 24/7, 365 days a year.

If you happened to be watching football last weekend, you might have seen the short and thought-provoking television spots sponsored by Land O'Lakes, a farmer-owned co-op: "Farmers. We all know they work hard. And we all depend on them. But did you know ... they are fewer than 1% of us. Yet they feed 100% of us."

"In the next 40 years, farmers need to produce more food than in the last 10,000 years combined."

"Ninety-eight percent of American farms are family-owned."

True statements. Yet while organizations such as Future Farmers of America continue to encourage young people to pursue professions in agriculture, the U.S. Department of Agriculture reports that the number of farms in America has continually declined since 1935. Surprisingly, though, the average size of a farm in the U.S. has remained fairly stable, at 445 acres.

Farming and ranching is not for sissies. These families must stay educated on the science of soils and animal husbandry. They must be good stewards of the land. And they can't close up shop to take a two-week vacation.

We live in an agricultural community. I've watched men wade in knee-deep snow to feed pregnant cows in the middle of a blizzard. I cried with a friend when she described how a freak hailstorm destroyed her family's wheat crop right before harvest. And I've noticed how neighbors help their neighbors in any and all circumstances.

Curious to know more about the people and processes behind our food supply? Tune in to the RFD-TV channel, or check out www.rfdtv.com. From weather reports to agricultural research, the channel provides interesting facts for and about those who we depend on for sustenance.

For example, "10 Innovations that Revolutionized Agriculture" is a fascinating look at the history of how food is produced. And "Where the Food Comes From" is a new series to address a very hot topic.

Farmers need to feed their own families, too. And to stay in business, they must care for their land, crops and animals. Want it straight from the farmer's mouth? Check out the Sustainability in Agriculture section at American Farm Bureau Federation (www.fb.org). Pretty exciting stuff.

We all eat. We all need what those in agriculture supply. Thank you, farmers, for what you do.

Barbara Intermill is a registered dietitian nutritionist and syndicated columnist. She is the author of Quinn-Essential Nutrition: The Uncomplicated Science of Eating" Email her at barbara@quinnessentialnutrition.com.

Healthy Living

How to store herbs and spices

Proper storage helps keep dried herbs and spices flavorful.

Where and when

- **Store in dark-colored** containers rather than clear ones
- **Keep them in a cool place** away from the stove
- **Herbs and whole spices** should last about two years; ground spices, about a year

Source: University of Nebraska Cooperative Extension, TNS Photo Service

Life & Style

Tom Brady, Gisele Bündchen announce divorce after 13 years

By LEANNE ITALIE and FRED GOODALL
ASSOCIATED PRESS

Tom Brady and Gisele Bündchen have finalized their divorce, they announced Friday, ending the 13-year marriage between two superstars who respectively reached the pinnacles of football and fashion.

Divorce documents were filed Friday in Glades County, Florida, a rural location near Lake Okeechobee far from the big-city limelight, according to court records. The divorce was made final the same day.

"The marriage of the parties is dissolved because the marriage is irretrievably broken, and each spouse is restored to the status of being single and unmarried," Circuit Judge Jack Lundy said in his order, noting that the couple's settlement agreement will not be filed in court but they "are ordered to comply with the terms" of that document as well as a confidential parenting plan for their children.

Brady and Bündchen posted statements Friday morning on Instagram, each saying they had "amicably" reached the decision.

"The decision to end a marriage is never easy but we have grown apart and while it is, of course, difficult to go through something like this, I feel blessed for the time we had together and only wish the best for Tom always," Bündchen wrote.

Both said their priorities lay with their children and asked for privacy.

"We arrived at this decision to end our marriage after much consideration," Brady wrote. "Doing so is, of course, painful and difficult, like it is for many people who go through the same thing every day around the world."

AP

Tom Brady and Gisele Bundchen attend The Metropolitan Museum of Art's Costume Institute benefit gala on May 7, 2018, in New York.

The divorce landed in the midst of Brady's 23rd NFL season, and amid his first three-game losing streak in 20 years, just months after the seven-time Super Bowl champion put an end to his short-lived retirement. The Tampa Bay Buccaneers quarterback—who had long stated a desire to spend more time with Bündchen and his three children—announced his departure from the game in February, only to change his mind 40 days later.

"What more do you have to prove?" Bündchen told her husband on the sidelines after his last, record-shattering Super Bowl victory, as Brady himself recounted shortly after the win.

Despite Brady initially saying his retirement was a chance to focus his "time and energy on other things that require my attention," part of his motivation to come back was what he has referred to as "unfinished business" with the Buccaneers. The team failed to reach the Super Bowl last season in their effort to repeat as champions.

Bündchen told "CBS This Morning" in 2017 that she was concerned about her husband after he played through a concussion the previous year. Brady's then-team, the New England Patriots, and agent declined to respond to her comments at the time, and an NFL spokesperson said there were no records he had suffered a head injury. Brady later said he preferred to keep his medical history private.

"I mean, we don't talk about it," Bündchen said during the interview. "But he does have concussions. I don't really think it's a healthy thing for anybody to go through."

She more recently contended that the characterization in reports that she was desperate for her husband to retire carried sexist overtones.

"Obviously, I have my concerns. This is a very violent sport, and I have my children and I would like him to be more present," the supermodel told Elle magazine in September. "I have definitely had those conversations with him over and over again. But ultimately, I feel that everybody has to make a decision that works for (them). He needs to follow his joy, too."

Bündchen and Brady were introduced by a mutual friend and married—twice—a little over two years later. They said their first "I dos" in early 2009 at a Catholic church in Santa Monica, California, before family and close friends, followed by an equally small second wedding at her house in Costa Rica nearly two months later.

Their son Benjamin was born later that year, followed by a daughter, Vivian, in 2012. Brady also has a 15-year-old son, Jack Moynahan, from a previous relationship with actor Bridget Moynahan.

The couple could have filed for divorce in any of Florida's 67 counties, including ones where they have residences in the Tampa and Miami areas. It was not the first time a celebrity has chosen a more remote county for their proceedings. Tiger Woods' divorce was finalized in 2010 in a brief courtroom appearance out of the limelight in Panama City on Florida's Panhandle.

Bündchen, who was discovered by a modeling scout at age 13 in Brazil, secured her place as one of the industry's highest-paid models by the 2000s and became a tabloid staple, fueled by a relationship with Leonardo DiCaprio. In addition to walking the runways of top designers, appearing in campaigns for high street and high fashion brands alike, she signed on as a Victoria's Secret Angel and took on small film roles—including in "The Devil Wears Prada."

She took a step back from modeling in 2015, giving up runway work and limiting herself to a few advertising campaigns and magazine covers a year. She made one big exception, wearing a glistening gown and a huge smile in 2016 as she crossed a 400-foot (120-meter) runway at the Rio Olympics while fellow Brazilian Daniel Jobim performed "The Girl from Ipanema."

Since paring back her modeling commitments, she has dedicated herself to environmental activism, particularly with regard to the Amazon rainforest's conservation, and business ventures like eco-friendly skin care and a lingerie line. She has also been vocal about mental health, disclosing debilitating panic attacks that she said had her contemplate suicide and criticizing unrealistic beauty standards.

Above all, Bündchen told Elle, her top priority was her family.

"I've done my part, which is (to) be there for (Tom). I moved to Boston, and I focused on creating a cocoon and a loving environment for my children to grow up in and to be there supporting him and his dreams," she said. "Seeing my children succeed and become the beautiful little humans that they are, seeing him succeed, and being fulfilled in his career, it makes me happy. At this point in my life, I feel like I've done a good job on that."

Living options adjusted due to woman's drinking

DEAR ABBY: My soon-to-be husband and I are moving back to our hometown in the months prior to our wedding. This is, in part, to make wedding organizing easier since we're having it near home. We have other weddings to attend this season, and we need to reduce our living expenses while we save for a house.

Our original plan was to live with my parents for three or four months, which they have encouraged us to do. The trouble is, as the date approached, I realized that, while I love my mother, her alcoholism and the way she behaves when she drinks is difficult to be around. Actually, it's really traumatic, if I'm being honest.

My other half and I have decided to stay with the parents of a good friend instead. They have a seven-bedroom house and are happy to host us, but I'm afraid of starting a conflict or embarrassing my parents by not living with them again. I'm not sure how to handle this without creating a rift before my wedding.

PROTECTING MYSELF IN UTAH

DEAR PROTECTING: Talk to your father. Thank him for his generosity and offer of hospitality, and explain the reasons for your decision. While he may be used to your mother's drinking, living with an abusive alcoholic is no way for a young couple to start a marriage. There's enough stress involved in planning a wedding without having to worry about your mother's alcohol-infused shenanigans. If he doesn't recognize the good sense in your and your fiance's decision, proceed with your plans anyway.

If your fiance has seen how your mother behaves when she's under the influence and doesn't want to live under your parents' roof when there is an alternative, he shouldn't have to.

■■■■

DEAR ABBY: My wife and I recently invited two of our best friends to dinner. As the husband was walking through our front door, he announced, "I have an awful cold, but it's not COVID!" I was so shocked that he would show up on our doorstep with a communicable disease of any kind, I didn't know how to respond. I didn't want to spoil the evening, but I was seething the whole time, angry at him for exposing us.

We may never invite this couple to our home again, but what should I say if confronted with a similar situation in the future? Am I overreacting? Is it better to get sick for a week than to risk offending someone by asking them to go home, get well and then reschedule?

TAKING CARE OF MYSELF

DEAR TAKING: If a guest, "good friend" or not, suspects they may have caught a bug, they should call their hosts and reschedule. This goes for the common cold, the flu and viruses that could be life-threatening. And you, as host, have every right to smile and tell your thoughtless friend to leave rather than possibly expose your family to whatever the person is carrying.

■■■■

DEAR READERS: It's Halloween, a time for fun and fantasy! I hope that any celebrating you do tonight will be creative, fun AND SAFE for everyone involved. Happy Halloween!

LOVE, ABBY

■■■■

Good advice for everyone – teens to seniors – is in "The Anger in All of Us and How to Deal With It." To order, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Anger Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

DEAR ABBY

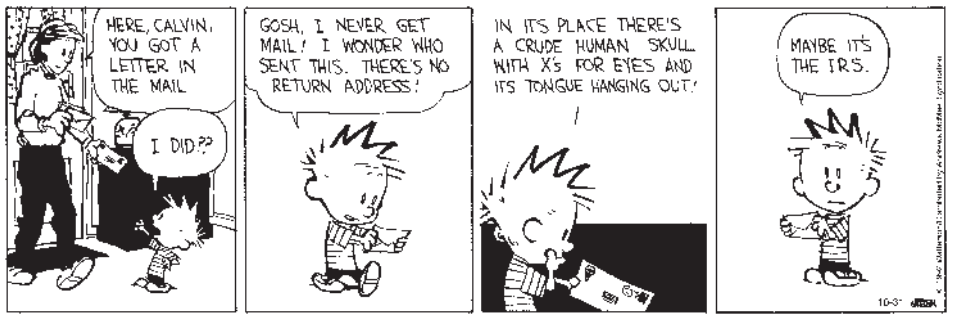
By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson


HERE, CALVIN, YOU GOT A LETTER IN THE MAIL
I DID??
GOSH, I NEVER GET MAIL! I WONDER WHO SENT THIS. THERE'S NO RETURN ADDRESS!
IN IT'S PLACE THERE'S A CRUDE HUMAN SKULL WITH X's FOR EYES AND IT'S TONGUE HANGING OUT!
MAYBE IT'S THE I.R.S.

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

HALLOWEEN: IT COMES BUT ONCE A YEAR.
MAY THE CANDY FLOW LIKE A RIVER. MAY THE GHOULS REIGN THIS NIGHT.
AND MAY NO NEIGHBORS HAND OUT THOSE LITTLE TOOTHBRUSHES INSTEAD OF CANDY.
YOU'RE WEIRD, BUT ON POINT.
AND A CURSE ON THOSE WHO GIVE THE LITTLE BOXES OF RAISINS!

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Duelist Aaron
5 Succor
8 Starting lineup?
12 Curved molding
13 "CSI" find
14 Ashen
15 Fashion's Cassini
16 Caped Hallowe-en visitors
18 Two-piece suit
20 Tennis star Graf
21 Arizona city
23 High school subj.
24 Hairy Halloween visitor
28 Like custard
31 Paris pal
32 Samples
34 Haw preceder
35 Carpets
37 Bony Halloween visitor
39 Chapeau
41 Flair
42 Misbehaves
45 Stop the flow of
49 Scary Hallowe-en visitors
51 Venus de —
52 Drifting ice
53 Actor Stephen
54 Earth Day subj.
55 Kitten calls
56 '60s chic
57 Castor's mother

DOWN

1 Nitwit
2 Wrinkled fruit
3 Stink
4 Ruling group
5 Counselors
6 Chef Garten
7 River blockers
8 Each
9 Tavern brawl
10 Staff leader?
11 Sitcom pioneer Arnaz
17 Score units (Abbr.)
19 Salamander
22 Similar
24 — of 1812
25 Ostrich's kin
26 "This moment!"
27 Mopes around
29 Earth (Pref.)
30 Longing
33 Venetian blind part
36 Mouths off to
38 Canine coat
40 Boy king
42 Like most car radios
43 Composer Porter
44 Salon request
46 Pleasing
47 Lummox
48 Spanish greeting
50 Classic car

Solution time: 26 mins.

W	O	W	■	A	L	S	O	■	E	W	E	H
A	V	A	■	S	O	S	A	■	X	R	A	Y
R	A	N	S	H	O	R	T	■	E	Y	R	E
P	L	E	A	T	S	■	B	B	C	■	■	■
■	■	■	T	O	E	■	R	O	S	T	E	R
S	U	S	A	N	■	F	A	X	■	F	T	A
C	R	L	Y	■	R	I	N	■	B	A	T	H
F	D	A	■	T	A	T	■	W	A	K	E	S
A	U	T	U	M	N	■	G	A	Y	■	■	■
■	■	■	F	I	C	■	E	R	D	I	C	A
B	U	M	F	■	H	O	N	D	U	R	A	N
C	T	O	E	■	E	D	I	E	■	A	N	E
B	E	A	R	■	S	E	E	N	■	S	E	W

Last Friday's Answer 10/31

1	2	3	4	■	5	6	7	■	8	9	10	11
12				■	13			■	14			
15				■	16			17				
18				19		■	20					
■	■	■	21			22	■	23			■	■
24	25	26					27	■	28		29	30
31			■	32				33	■	34		
35			36	■	37				38			
■	■	39		40	■	41				■	■	■
42	43				44	■	45			46	47	48
49						50		■	51			
52				■	53				54			
55				■	56				57			

STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Letitia Wright, 29; Erica Cerra, 43; Mike O'Malley, 56; Brian Doyle-Murray, 77.

Happy Birthday: Hit the reset button and make your dreams come true. Just talking about what you want to do with your life and actually making it happen aren't the same. Size up your situation, consider what's working for you and make amendments that give you the freedom to use your skills and experience to your benefit. Your numbers are 8, 14, 22, 27, 33, 36, 45.

ARIES *(March 21-April 19):* Choose someone you can count on instead of trusting someone without a track record. Set an example for others and see who rises to the occasion. Surrounding yourself with stellar individuals you treat properly will encourage success. Nurture meaningful relationships. ✪✪✪✪

TAURUS *(April 20-May 20):* Make changes that work for you, and refuse to let outsiders interfere with your decisions. Put your power behind what matters to you, and don't agree to unnecessary and costly plans. Take a step forward instead of letting others push you back. ✪✪

GEMINI *(May 21-June 20):* Head in a direction that interests you, and you will find many ways to use your skills. Sharing with peers is noble, but don't expect the same in return. Recognize who is competing with you and who is helping you. ✪✪✪✪✪

CANCER *(June 21-July 22):* Explore the possibilities, and you'll find a way to use your attributes, skills and experience to create something unique. Put on your thinking cap to devise a better, more efficient way to get things done in your particular way. ✪✪✪

LEO *(July 23-Aug. 22):* Proceed with caution. Don't make promises you can't keep or limit what you can do because you are too busy covering for or taking care of someone. Refuse to let anyone take advantage of you. Concentrate on whatever benefits you directly. ✪✪✪

VIRGO *(Aug. 23-Sept. 22):* Attend a meeting, conference or class and soak up information that will help point you in a direction that raises enthusiasm. Liking what you do for a living is worth your while. Don't settle for something you hate doing. Reinvent your future. ✪✪✪✪

LIBRA *(Sept. 23-Oct. 22):* Focus on responsibilities. Leave nothing to chance. Be on guard, resourceful and prepared to implement different methods to reach your goal. Branching out and learning as you go will be backed by some and opposed by others. Do what feels right. ✪✪

SCORPIO *(Oct. 23-Nov. 21):* A unique experience will change how you do things. Choose to live and enjoy the moment, and you will approach work and domestic responsibilities differently. Personal changes will encourage more freedom to do as you please. ✪✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS *(Nov. 22-Dec. 21):* Confirm the information you receive and pass along only what's valid. Don't let anger set in if someone reschedules or makes an unexpected change. Reset your plans and take care of your responsibilities. ✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN *(Dec. 22-Jan. 19):* Look at the possibilities, use your imagination and call on people you know won't let you down. Don't mix business with pleasure. Keep private matters to yourself and implement changes at home that put a smile on your face. Dress to impress. ✪✪✪

AQUARIUS *(Jan. 20-Feb. 18):* Make stability a priority. Choose your words carefully when discussing money matters or relationship issues. Uncertainty will put you in an awkward position. When in doubt, take a pass. Don't let your guard down regarding health and physical injury. ✪✪✪

PISCES *(Feb. 19-March 20):* Work toward something that leads to financial stability. Handle an incident at home with care. An argument will make matters worse. Bide your time; plan to nurture rather than start a feud. Protect your money and reputation. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are intense, wise and resourceful. You are challenging and forthright.

✪: Avoid conflicts; work behind the scenes. ✪✪: You can accomplish, but don't rely on others. ✪✪✪: Focus and you'll reach your goals. ✪✪✪✪: Aim high; start new projects. ✪✪✪✪✪: Nothing can stop you; go for gold.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

		8				7		
	5		9	1	7		6	
9			2		6			4
	2 7	4		6		5	7 4	
	3	5				1	8	
7			3		5			8
	4	1	1	7	8	4	2	

Difficulty Level ★ 10/31

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Last Friday's Answer

3	6	4	2	8	9	7	1	5
2	8	1	6	5	7	4	9	3
9	7	5	4	3	1	8	6	2
4	1	9	3	2	5	6	8	7
8	5	7	9	4	6	2	3	1
6	2	3	1	7	8	5	4	9
1	9	8	7	6	2	3	5	4
7	4	6	5	9	3	1	2	8
5	3	2	8	1	4	9	7	6

Difficulty Level ★★★★ 10/31

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WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the **WONDERWORD.**

HAPPY HALLOWEEN! Solution: 4 letters

V	Z	G	E	W	N	E	R	D	L	I	H	C	T	N
H	A	O	A	N	K	C	I	T	S	M	O	O	R	B
O	L	M	M	M	O	M	A	S	K	S	C	E	I	A
R	L	F	P	B	E	T	Ⓑ	Ⓐ	Ⓣ	T	T	M	C	L
R	U	E	I	I	I	S	S	U	O	N	U	C	K	U
O	K	A	G	S	R	E	M	B	A	M	E	A	O	C
R	S	R	S	O	E	E	E	L	M	S	H	R	R	A
E	T	E	O	D	E	R	O	Y	S	O	A	V	T	R
T	S	D	P	R	N	K	E	O	C	P	T	I	R	D
C	O	I	F	U	C	E	R	V	R	A	S	N	E	B
A	H	P	U	A	E	I	I	A	A	A	N	G	A	E
R	G	S	J	G	E	K	N	R	F	R	N	D	T	W
A	C	A	T	S	S	K	A	E	F	O	G	G	Y	A
H	O	U	S	E	S	I	T	M	O	N	S	T	E	R
C	O	B	W	E	B	Y	D	E	C	O	R	A	T	E

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Acid, Bicarbonate, Body, Boost, Calcium, Cardiovascular, Cells, Changes, Chemistry, Chloride, Coconut, Control, Cramps, Electric, Enhance, Fatigue, Fluid, Food, Functions, Glands, Hormones, Imbalance, Juice, Kale, Levels, Loss, Meats, Milk, Milligram, Potassium, Prevent, Refuel, Regulation, Sodium, Solution, Thyroid, Vital, Water

Last Friday's Answer: Pepper

The NEW **Volume 70** can be purchased online at www.WonderWordBooks.com, or call 1-800-642-6480.

Astros burst ahead, beat Phillies 5-2, tie World Series 1-1

HOUSTON (AP)—Framber Valdez made a five-run lead stand up after Houston's lightning first-inning burst, Alex Bregman homered and the Astros beat the Philadelphia Phillies 5-2 Saturday night to tie the World Series at one game apiece.

Just like in Game 1, the Astros rushed to a 5-0 lead. Unlike ace Justin Verlander in the opener, Valdez and Houston held on.

Valdez rebounded from a pair of poor outings in last year's Series to pitch shutout ball into the seventh, and the bullpen survived a couple of jams to close things out.

"Framber did a great job," said Jose Altuve, who broke out of a 4-for-37 postseason slump with three hits. "Just amazing performance by him and our bullpen, as well."

Altuve, Jeremy Peña and Yordan Alvarez all doubled as Houston took a two-run lead four pitches in against Zack Wheeler. A throwing error by shortstop Edmundo Sosa allowed another run in the first, and Bregman added a two-run homer in the fifth.

A day after coming back for a 6-5 win in 10 innings, Philadelphia tried to rally in this one, too.

With the Phillies trailing by four runs, Kyle Schwarber hit a drive deep down the right-field line with a man on in the eighth against Rafael Montero that was originally ruled a two-run homer by right field line umpire James Hoye.

First base umpire Tripp Gibson at first signaled for umps to conference and the call was reversed on a crew chief review when it was determined the ball was just to the foul side of the pole.

Schwarber, who led the NL with 46 home runs this season and added three more in the playoffs, then hit a long drive that was caught at the right field wall.

Ryan Pressly finished the combined six-hitter, giving up a run on an error by first baseman Yuli Gurriel on Brandon Marsh's grounder.

Following the split in Houston, the Series resumes Monday night when Citizens Bank Park hosts the Series for the first time since 2009.

Of 61 previous Series tied 1-1, the Game 2 winner went on to the title 31 times — but just four of the last 14.

After struggling to a 19.29 ERA in a pair of Series starts in last year's six-game loss to Atlanta, Valdez pitched with polish and poise. His cheeks glistening with sweat, the 28-year-old left-hander struck out nine and walked three, allowing four hits in 6 1/3 innings.

He blew by batters with a fastball averaging 95.6 mph and baffled them with his curve, which got six of his strikeouts — three of them looking. Unusually, he changed his glove and spikes mid-outing.

When the Phillies put two runners on for the only time against him in the sixth, Valdez struck out Game 1 star J.T. Realmuto with high heat, then got Bryce Harper to bounce a first-pitch sinker into an inning-ending double play.

"His sinker was fantastic. His curveball was pretty good," Phillies manager Rob Thomson said. "His putaway pitches were good."

Thomson didn't take issue with Valdez rubbing his palm — social media was abuzz, wondering if there was some substance there.

"The umpires check these guys after almost every inning and if there's something going on MLB will take care of it," Thomson said. "We saw it the last time he started, too."

Nick Castellanos led off the Phillies seventh with a double and Valdez left after a groundout advanced the runner. Montero allowed Jean Segura's sacrifice fly to the left-field warning track.

A day after the deflating defeat, the Astros came out swinging and became the first team to open a Series game with three straight extra-base hits.

Altuve lined a sinker into left, and Peña drove a curveball into the left-field corner for a 1-0 lead.

Alvarez fouled off a pitch and drove a slider high off the 19-foot wall in left.

"I was pulling for a fourth, actually," Baker said. "Try to score as many runs as you can. Because you know Wheeler is one of the tougher guys in baseball."

Wheeler should have escaped down just 2-0, but shortstop Edmundo Sosa bounced his throw to first on Gurriel's three-hopper for an error, the ball glancing off the mitt of first baseman Rhys Hoskins.

Bregman, healthy after two injury-hampered seasons, hit a two-run homer to left in the fifth when Wheeler left a slider over the middle of the plate. Bregman has six career Series homers and three this postseason with nine RBIs.

Wheeler gave up five runs — four earned — six hits and three walks in five innings, a day after Aaron Nola struggled.

"I think everybody deserves a poor start every once in a while," Thomson said. "Those guys have been so good for us for so long, and I fully expect them to come back and be ready to go and pitch well for us."

Houston won 106 games during the season and Philadelphia 87, the second-highest win disparity in the Series behind the 93-win Chicago White Sox beat the 116-win Cubs in 1906.

Noah Syndergaard will start Game 3 for the Phillies and Lance McCullers Jr. for the Astros. Phillies' Ranger Suárez will take the mound for Game 4, and likely Cristian Javier for Houston.

AP

Houston Astros starting pitcher Framber Valdez tips his cap as he leaves the game during the seventh inning in Game 2 of baseball's World Series between the Houston Astros and the Philadelphia Phillies on Saturday, Oct. 29, 2022, in Houston.

Baker laments lack of US-born Black players in World Series

HOUSTON (AP)—Dusty Baker grew up watching Black stars shine in the World Series, paving his path to a life devoted to baseball.

When he leads the Houston Astros in Game 1 of the World Series against the Philadelphia Phillies on Friday night, the AL and NL champions will play without any U.S.-born Black players for the first time since 1950, shortly after Jackie Robinson broke the Major League Baseball color barrier.

It's a fact that deeply disturbs the 73-year-old Baker, one of two Black MLB managers, who has spent his entire life either playing or coaching baseball.

"What hurts is that I don't know how much hope that it gives some of the young African-American kids," Baker told The Associated Press on Thursday. "Because when I was their age, I had a bunch of guys, (Willie) Mays, (Hank) Aaron, Frank Robinson, Tommy Davis — my hero — Maury Wills, all these guys. We need to do something before we lose them."

Jackie Robinson debuted in 1947 with the Brooklyn Dodgers and played in the World Series that year. Since then, the 1950 matchup between the New York Yankees and Phillies has been the only World Series without a U.S.-born Black player.

Houston and Philadelphia announced their 26-man rosters several hours before Game 1 on Friday night at Minute Maid Park, and neither had a U.S.-born Black player on it. Both rosters have players of color from the Caribbean, Central and South America.

Michael Brantley, a Black outfielder for Houston, is out for the season because of a shoulder injury.

"I don't think that that's something that baseball should really be proud of," said Baker, who won a World Series as an outfielder with the Dodgers in 1981 and is seeking his first championship as a manager. "It looks bad. It lets people know that it didn't take a year or even a decade to get to this point."

Indeed, the dwindling number of Black MLB players has been an issue for years. Richard Lapchick, director of The Institute for Diversity and Ethics in Sport at Central Florida is the lead author for his group's annual reports on diversity hiring practices in sports. He said that Black players made up just 7.2% of opening day roster this year, the lowest percentage since study data was first collected in 1991, when 18% of MLB players were Black.

Starting in 1954, when Mays and the New York Giants played against Larry Doby and Cleveland, every single team to reach the World Series had at least one U.S.-born Black player until the 2005 Astros did not.

The Phillies had no Black players on their opening roster this year for the first time since 1959. Roman Quinn, a Black backup outfielder, played 23 games before being released.

Philadelphia power-hitting rookie Darick Hall made his debut in late June and played 41 games — his mother is white and his father is Black and white, and he identifies as multiracial. Hall wasn't on the Phillies' roster for any of the first three rounds this postseason and isn't expected to be on the World Series roster.

Last summer, for the first time in MLB draft history, four of the first five players selected were Black.

All four, along with more than 300 big leaguers including Atlanta's Michael Harris II, Cincinnati's Hunter Greene, Pittsburgh's Ke'Bryan Hayes and Milwaukee's Devin Williams, took part in MLB diversity-based initiatives such as the MLB Youth Academy, DREAM Series and the Reviving Baseball in Inner Cities (RBI) program.

While "very disappointed and discouraged" with the situation this year, Baker hopes the makeup of the top of the most recent draft means this will be the last World Series where U.S.-born Black players aren't represented.

"There is help on the way," he said. "You can tell by the number of African-American number one draft choices. The academies are producing players. So hopefully in the near future we won't have to talk about this anymore or even be in this situation."

AP

Houston Astros manager Dusty Baker Jr. (12) watches batting practice ahead of Game 1 of the baseball World Series between the Houston Astros and the Philadelphia Phillies on Thursday, Oct. 27, 2022, in Houston.

Hornets spoil Curry's homecoming again, beat Warriors in OT

CHARLOTTE, N.C. (AP)—The Charlotte Hornets were coming off a 20-point road loss to the Orlando Magic, playing on the second night of a back-to-back and without their starting front court of LaMelo Ball and Terry Rozier.

So they had no chance against the defending NBA champion Golden State Warriors, right?

Well, think again.

P.J. Washington erupted for 31 points, Gordon Hayward added 23 and the Hornets once again spoiled Stephen Curry's annual homecoming game with a 120-113 overtime win over the Warriors on Saturday night.

Kelly Oubre Jr added 18 points as the Hornets beat the Warriors for the fourth straight year at the Spectrum Center, just a few miles from where Curry grew up.

"They obviously understand who is coming into the building so they don't want to give us anything easy," Curry said. "We knew they were going to come out aggressive and with a sense of pride and they did that."

Curry scored 31 points and had 11 rebounds to pace the Warriors, but missed a tightly contested 3-pointer at the end of regulation that would have won the game. He also air-balled a 3 in overtime and finished 3 of 13 from beyond the arc.

Jordan Poole had 24 points off the bench for Golden State.

In the extra period, Jalen McDaniels knocked down a momentum-turning 3-pointer from the left wing and Dennis Smith Jr. scored on a drive to the hole to give the Hornets the lead for good at 116-111.

Curry made two free throws but Washington scored again inside, muscling a shot up and in to push the lead back to five. Washington had six points in the overtime period.

"It goes to show we have a lot of character," Hornets coach Steve Clifford said. "We played poorly last night. ... but you could just tell in shootaround. I didn't know we were going to win, but I knew we were going to play well. Just the way they walked into the building and the way they were talking to each other."

Smith finished with 13 points, nine rebounds and eight assists for Charlotte. He also was all over Curry on the final possession of regulation, not allowing him to get to the basket or get a decent look at a 3-pointer.

Curry lamented his decision to settle for a 3 instead of driving to the hole and looking to create.

"I can get a way better look than that," Curry said. "I got wrapped in the trying to play hero ball in a hometown buzzer-beater type situation."

Warriors forward Draymond Green said it was frustrating to surrender a four-point lead in the final minute regulation after Washington hit a turnaround jumper and Smith scored on a driving layup to tie the game.

"We never lose those games." Green said. "I can probably recall on one hand over the last eight years that we lost a game up four with a minute to go. So that is deflating form that standpoint. We can't lose that game. That's also a team without their two starting guards."

The Warriors have not beaten the Hornets in Charlotte since Feb. 25, 2019.

"We have to get one next year," Curry said.

The Hornets had built 62-50 halftime lead behind 15 points each from Hayward and Washington and some terrific hustle from Mason Plumlee, who had nine rebounds and six assists before the break.

AP

Golden State Warriors guard Stephen Curry gestures during the first half of an NBA basketball game against the Charlotte Hornets, Saturday, Oct. 29, 2022, in Charlotte, N.C

Pacers 125, Nets 116

In New York, rookie Bennedict Mathurin scored a career-high 32 points, Tyrese Haliburton added 26 and the Pacers beat the Nets.

Mathurin, who had 27 points at Detroit on Oct. 22, made a career-best six of Indiana's 23 3-pointers.

Isaiah Jackson had a double-double with 18 points and 10 rebounds and Buddy Hield chipped in 17 for the Pacers.

Kyrie Irving scored 35 points on 13 for 22 shooting from the field for the struggling Nets, who have lost their last four games. Brooklyn's defense has allowed 124.5 points per game during their four-game skid.

Kings 119, Heat 113

In Sacramento, Calif., Kevin Huerter scored 27 points, hitting seven 3-pointers, to help the Kings win for the first time this season with a victory over the Heat.

It's the first victory for Kings coach Mike Brown, who was hired this past offseason. The Los Angles Lakers are the last winless team in the NBA.

Kings rookie Keegan Murray scored a career-best 22 points.

Tyler Herro led the Heat with 34 points and knocked down five 3-pointers.

Bucks 123, Hawks 115

In Milwaukee, Giannis Antetokounmpo and Jrue Holiday each scored 34 points as the Bucks responded after falling behind in the fourth quarter to beat the Hawks and remain unbeaten.

Antetokounmpo scored 30 of his 34 points after halftime and also had 17 rebounds. Holiday also had 12 assists as the Bucks withstood Trae Young's 42-point effort and improved to 5-0.

Dejounte Murray scored 21, Hunter 14 and Clint Capela 11 for the Hawks.

76ers 114, Bulls 109

In Chicago, Joel Embiid scored 25 points and made a tiebreaking 3-pointer to help the 76ers squeeze by the Bulls.

It was tied at 109 after the Bulls' Nikola Vucevic made two foul shots with 1:10 left in the game. Embiid then missed two free throws after Patrick Williams fouled him away from the ball.

Chicago's Alex Caruso grabbed the rebound, but Zach LaVine missed a 19-footer. Embiid then nailed a 3 to give the Sixers a 112-109 lead with 18.1 seconds remaining.

DeRozan missed on a drive. Alex Caruso then stole a pass from P.J. Tucker, only to miss a 3, and Tobias Harris made two free throws with 4.4 seconds to play.

DeRozan, who reached the 20,000-point milestone in Friday's loss at San Antonio, led Chicago with 24.

Thunder 117, Mavericks 111, OT

In Dallas, Shai Gilgeous-Alexander scored 38 points, and Oklahoma City erased an eight-point deficit in the final two minutes of regulation in an overtime victory against the Mavericks.

The Mavericks turned a one-point deficit after three quarters into a 15-point lead without Luka Doncic, and the Thunder stormed back from 16 down after the Dallas star returned.

Doncic had his fifth consecutive 30-point game to start the season with 31, but was just 8 of 23 from the field. He had his second straight triple-double with 16 rebounds and 10 assists.

Isaiah Joe, who didn't play until the fourth quarter, scored eight of his 15 points in overtime, including a 3-pointer that broke a 101-all tie and started a 7-0 run in the extra period.

Gilgeous-Alexander, who had a season-high nine assists, scored six of the first nine Oklahoma City points in overtime.

Jazz 124, Grizzlies 123

In Salt Lake City, Lauri Markkanen and Kelly Olynyk each scored 23 points, including a pair of late 3-pointers, to lift the Jazz to a win over the Grizzlies, who were playing without Ja Morant.

On their final possession, the Jazz were leading 124-123 and nearly lost the ball twice but it bounced to Markkanen near the basket and he missed a contested layup.

The Grizzlies got the rebound and after a timeout, Olynyk knocked the ball of out-of-bounds. On the ensuing play, Bane got a pass but slipped and fell beyond the 3-point line as the clock expired.

Bane had 32 points and Dillon Brooks had 30 points in his third game of the season to help make up for Morant's 32.6 scoring average. He missed the game with a non-COVID illness.

Sources: NBA seeking to tighten limits on team spending

By TIM REYNOLDS
AP BASKETBALL WRITER

The NBA wants more competitive balance and is considering an "upper spending limit" that would significantly tighten the rules on how much teams can spend each year on their roster, three people familiar with the matter said Friday.

The people, all of whom spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity because no details of ongoing labor negotiations between the league and its players have been made public, said more talks are scheduled about the idea.

The limit essentially could eliminate the luxury tax as an option for teams and would install an absolute ceiling on what can be spent each season. One of the people who spoke with the AP said the National Basketball Players Association is not interested in agreeing to such a plan, the details of which were first reported Friday by ESPN and on Substack by longtime NBA reporter Marc Stein.

The proposal comes at a time where some teams — the reigning NBA champion Golden State Warriors, primarily — are simply spending more than other teams either are willing or able to. The Warriors spent nearly $350 million this past season on salaries and tax, and are projected to spend around $360 million this season.

That's nearly four times as much as the San Antonio Spurs will spend this season, three times as much as the Memphis Grizzlies and a bit more than double the average that the other 29 clubs are on pace to spend this season. And most of those teams — at least 20 of the 30 — aren't in line to go into the tax this season, either.

Talks between the sides on the notion, and other matters such as reinstating the ability for players to go directly from high school to the NBA draft, have been going on for some time between Commissioner Adam Silver, NBPA Executive Director Tamika Tremaglio and others.

The current labor deal between the league and its players is set to expire after the 2023-24 season, though either side can terminate the deal a year early by announcing its intent to do so by Dec. 15.

The league's position on team spending isn't difficult to figure out. If only high-spending teams in major markets can afford to pay huge salary and tax bills, that would create a major competitive advantage. By taking that ability away, better competition in more markets would, in theory, create more revenue — and increase player salaries.

It's easy to see why players wouldn't want any deal that essentially caps how high salaries can climb. The league has a salary cap and luxury tax threshold, though those are hardly deterrents to teams willing to dig deeper than others when it comes to retaining star players.

Golden State's proposed tax and salary bills for the 2023-24 season is about $483 million as of now, but the numbers can change in the coming months based on other personnel decisions. The Warriors have committed more than $600 million in contracts to Stephen Curry, Draymond Green, Klay Thompson, Jordan Poole and Andrew Wiggins alone, including what they're making this season.

The NBA is coming off a massive financial year, with revenue topping $10 billion for the first time and basketball-related income reaching $8.9 billion, another record.

"The numbers did surprise me to a certain degree because it exceeded projections, and the projections represent where we think our business is going," Silver said in July. "I think it's quite remarkable from where we came 2 1/2 years ago."

16-year-old from SPC places fourth in Micro Cup

By LEIGH GASES
leigh_gases@saipantribune.com
CORRESPONDENT

Sixteen-year-old Tyler Andrew from the Saipan Paddling Club placed fourth in the very competitive V1 500m sprint finals of the 22nd Micronesia Cup Canoe Race held from Oct. 21 to 23 in Koror, Palau.

Both SPC's men's V6 teams in the 500m and 1,500m also placed fourth in the finals out of seven teams.

The teen from Saipan Southern High School impressively placed first place in his heat and advanced to the finals who then placed fourth out of eight men with a time of 2:45:00.

The men's V6 500m team came in with a time of 2:21:16 and in the 1,500m came in with a time of 7:59:10.

The 10th grader told *Saipan Tribune* that going against other older paddlers, he "felt really nervous about it because all those grown men were in the Pacific Mini Games national teams and [some] of them were bigger in size than me," but he said that he felt "really good about placing fourth, but it happened and I'm really proud of myself. I exceeded my expectations."

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Sixteen-year-old Tyler Andrew, left, is seen with Saipan Paddling Club teammate Oliver Igisaiar in Palau during the 22nd Micro Cup Canoe Race held from Oct. 21 to 23. Andrew placed fourth in the V1 500m sprint out of eight opponents.

Club president and coach Justin Andrew said about their performance that they "all did well. The SPC men's team, no one but me has raced in [the] Micro Cup before so they are all rookies, plus the [junior] boys [Tyler] is just 16 and [Jermaine Salas] is 17 [years old]... Both Tyler and Jermaine are [junior] SPC paddlers and raced against adult men who have more experience."

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Saipan Paddling Club's men's and women's teams pose for a photo in Palau during the 22nd Micro Cup Canoe Race held from Oct. 21 to 23.

"And [of] the women's crew, only two have raced [in the] Micro Cup before but those two plus one more were in the [Pacific Mini Games], so the women's crew has a good mix of age and experience," said Justin.

The men's team includes coach and paddler Justin Andrew, Corey Mendiola, Phillip Aldan, Tyler Andrew, Jermaine Salas, and Joe Weaver.

The women's team consists of Vinalyn Oronigo, Tianna Aldan, Gerlyn Libunao, Erryne Dasalla, Danica Calvo, Gracie Mendiola.

Out of the 12-person team, Calvo, Libunao, and Orinogo were part of the NMI women's national Va'a team during the 2022 Pacific Mini Games, and Justin was the NMI national va'a coach.

Members of the SPC team thanked their family and supporters who made their trip to Palau possible.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

NBA STANDINGS

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Boston	3	2	.600	—
New York	3	2	.600	—
Toronto	3	3	.500	½
Philadelphia	3	4	.429	1
Brooklyn	1	5	.167	2½

Southeast Division

Atlanta	4	2	.667	—
Washington	3	2	.600	½
Charlotte	3	3	.500	1
Miami	2	5	.286	2½
Orlando	1	5	.167	3

Central Division

Milwaukee	5	0	1.000	—
Cleveland	4	1	.800	1
Chicago	3	4	.429	3
Indiana	3	4	.429	3
Detroit	1	5	.167	4½

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Southwest Division

Memphis	4	2	.667	—
San Antonio	4	2	.667	—
New Orleans	3	2	.600	½
Dallas	2	3	.400	1½
Houston	1	5	.167	3

Northwest Division

Portland	5	1	.833	—
Utah	5	2	.714	½
Denver	4	2	.667	1
Minnesota	4	2	.667	1
Oklahoma City	3	3	.500	2

Pacific Division

Phoenix	4	1	.800	—
Golden State	3	3	.500	1½
L.A. Clippers	2	3	.400	2
Sacramento	1	4	.200	3
L.A. Lakers	0	5	.000	4

NFL STANDINGS

AMERICAN CONFERENCE

East

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Buffalo	5	1	0	.833	176	81
N.Y. Jets	5	2	0	.714	159	137
Miami	4	3	0	.571	147	165
New England	3	4	0	.429	155	146

South

Tennessee	4	2	0	.667	115	128
Indianapolis	3	3	1	.500	113	140
Jacksonville	2	5	0	.286	155	137
Houston	1	4	1	.250	106	137

North

Baltimore	5	3	0	.625	208	183
Cincinnati	4	3	0	.571	173	132
Cleveland	2	5	0	.286	168	186
Pittsburgh	2	5	0	.286	107	162

West

Kansas City	5	2	0	.714	223	172
L.A. Chargers	4	3	0	.571	164	189
Las Vegas	2	4	0	.333	163	150
Denver	2	5	0	.286	100	115

NATIONAL CONFERENCE

East

Philadelphia	6	0	0	1.000	161	105
N.Y. Giants	6	1	0	.857	150	130
Dallas	5	2	0	.714	134	104
Washington	3	4	0	.429	125	156

South

Atlanta	3	4	0	.429	163	171
Tampa Bay	3	5	0	.375	146	151
Carolina	2	5	0	.286	124	149
New Orleans	2	5	0	.286	175	200

North

Minnesota	5	1	0	.833	139	118
Chicago	3	4	0	.429	126	132
Green Bay	3	4	0	.429	128	146
Detroit	1	5	0	.167	146	194

West

Seattle	4	3	0	.571	183	186
L.A. Rams	3	3	0	.500	104	126
Arizona	3	4	0	.429	156	176
San Francisco	3	4	0	.429	145	133

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

SECOND

From Page 24

18 players in a team in a 7v7 or 8v8 game, with the rest on the bench, so with the new field, they will be able to accommodate more players, teams, and games. He invites and "encourage[s] everyone in the community to give soccer a try… It is fun to play and [you can] make a lot of new friends."

But with that, "I witnessed the growth. Men, boys, we're always very active; we want to play, but it's really nice to see more and more girls and women. This is actually something… FIFA has been encouraging and providing funding to support because they realize that most of the players are men. They want to see a lot more women to step up and play. We are very happy with the youth, we always have the boys, but now the women are growing in the program. So, I want to… thank and congratulate all the women out there. You can recruit your sister and your mom, whoever to come out and play also. This program is for everyone."

LEIGH GASES

Attendees of the ribbon-cutting ceremony are seen on the newly minted second regular-sized pitch that can accommodate more games at the NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville.

He also made a trip down memory lane when the NMISTC was partially damaged due to Super Typhoon Yutu right after its grand opening in July 2018.

Torres, in his speech, thanked the everyone that is always out representing the CNMI in tournaments, "congratulations and thank you for always doing your best." He thanked Tan and the NMIFA team for continuing what you do for the community."

The group then made their way across the first pitch and onto the entrance of the new regular-sized pitch, where Bishop Jimenez led the group in a prayer; the group then cut the ribbon to allow people to enter and Jimenez to bless the field.

Last Saturday's event coincided with the continuation of the Take Care Youth League Fall 2022, where hundreds of children are participating.

TORRES

From Page 24

governor always managed to find a way to help us. So, thank you, governor."

Before turning over the check, Torres addressed the group and said "there's a couple of things I just wanted to ask of all of you. First, to thank your coaches. Without them, you guys cannot be where you're at. Second, thank your parents. Thank your parents for giving up everything they can for you guys to enjoy."

After turning over the check, Torres said "make sure you enjoy your trip. Enjoy the ride, enjoy the journey and work hard and thank you for representing the CNMI."

The FIBA U15 Oceania Championships will be held from Nov. 21 to 26 at the University of Guam Calvo Field House. The CNMI's U15 teams will go up against Guam, Australia, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, the Federated States of Micronesia, and Samoa.

The players representing the CNMI are products of the NMIBF's Junior National Basketball Program which seeks to create a sustainable youth development program on island, with about 40 students enrolled and attending training sessions three times a week.

QUALITY

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proving your body composition and progressively getting stronger, it doesn't offer up anything more out of what you can get by being a little more methodical.

It's worth noting that the challenges mentioned above commonly take place as you progress in your diet and training. Although, the magnitude at which it occurs can be mitigated with proper programming and the appropriate adjustments. Needless to say, we need to be more aware that a heavy reliance on training when your activity is already high is not a good move. The easiest way to determine if you're, more or less, heading in the right direction is if you're still getting stronger in your lifts or maintaining them. If there's a marked decline, then you need to assess your game plan because your approach is broken.

Astros burst ahead, beat Phillies 5-2, tie World Series 1-1

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16-year-old from SPC places fourth in Micro Cup

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Second regular soccer pitch opens

LEIGH GASES

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres, first lady Diann Torres, House of Representatives Speaker Edmund S. Villagomez (Ind-Saipan), Bishop Ryan Jimenez, NMIFA president Jerry Tan, the NMIFA Executive Committee, other NMIFA officials, Public School System athletic director Nick Gross, and the sport's stakeholders cut the ribbon inaugurating the second regular-sized pitch at the NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville.

By LEIGH GASES
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CORRESPONDENT

Four years after the opening of the NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville, an additional second regular pitch was inaugurated Saturday afternoon and was immediately put into use in a game between the U16 teams of MP United FC and Kanoa Football Club.

The new pitch mirrors the regular-sized pitch built in Phase 1, which is an artificial 80 x 120-yard grass turf with under drainage, team benches with clear covers, and lighting.

The pitch was part of the Northern Mariana Islands Football Association's NMISTC expansion project that broke ground last March worth $2 million.

In Saturday's ribbon-cutting ceremony, Gov. Ralph DLG Torres pledged $750,000 to the project.

Aside from Torres, also in attendance during the ribbon-cutting ceremony were first lady Diann Torres, House of Representatives Speaker Edmund S. Villagomez (Ind-Saipan), Bishop Ryan Jimenez, NMIFA president Jerry Tan, the NMIFA Executive Committee, other NMIFA officials, Public School System athletic director Nick Gross, the sport's stakeholders, and children and parents.

Tan said the reason for the expansion is because the soccer program in the CNMI is "going very well not only with the youth… but also the men and women."

He recognized the large number of women and soccer moms who not only watch, but play the sport and invited those who have yet to play, to come out and "give it a try."

He sees that there are about

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Quality over quantity

Ask DRE:

By DRE DELOS SANTOS
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Dre Delos Santos writes about fitness and nutrition for Saipan Tribune *and* TAGA Sports*. He is a personal trainer at Gold's Gym. He is featured on fitness sites such as Weight Watchers, T-Nation, and STACK.*

Sitting at the corner end of my kitchen is a Keurig. And every weekend I look forward to waking up bright and early to take that first sip of fresh brewed coffee, listen to country music, and sit with my thoughts.

In my current juncture, it's a simple pleasure I enjoy very much. Interestingly enough, lately, I've been trying to wrap my mind around how simple concepts always seemingly get swept under the rug. It's as if we're all naturally inclined to make things more complicated than it needs to be. I've written about the repercussions of attempting to expedite progress quite a few times, so I hope this nugget comes as no surprise—attaining visible, meaningful results isn't going to happen in such a short period of time.

Haphazardly adding more workout days thinking that's going to somehow bolster results is delusional. Beside the obvious burnout that would ensue, in my observations, that leads to compensatory behaviors which have been shown to build friction in your pursuit. Namely, binge eating episodes due to growing hunger cues, and a dramatic subconscious drop in non-exercise activity. The latter accounts for about 15-20% of your total daily energy expenditure, which is pretty significant.

Sadly, this is an accurate representation of what most people go through. The intent is clearly there—and granted, to be able to sustain a relatively high exercise output should be commended. But with respect to im-

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Torres donates $22K to U15 hoops teams

By LEIGH GASES
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Gov. Ralph DLG Torres turned over a check worth $22,434 to the Northern Mariana Islands Basketball Federation U15 National Team last Thursday at the Office of the Governor.

The funds cover the boys and girls teams' expenses in the FIBA U15 Oceania Championships in Guam this November.

Northern Mariana Islands Basketball Federation president James Lee, team coaches, and players of the NMIBF U15 National Team were present to receive the check.

LEIGH GASES

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres is seen with the Northern Mariana Islands Basketball Federation U15 National Team, along with NMIBF president James Lee, second right, at the Office of the Governor after Torres turned over a $22,434 check to cover their expenses in the FIBA U15 Oceania Championships this month in Guam.

Lee thanked the governor for his continued support for sports.

"Thank you for supporting sports in general… As an athlete, as a coach, your guidance and this administration, have always been there for sports… Definitely our governor here has always been there for us since Day 1. So, the only thing you guys needed to concentrate on this whole year was really practice and train hard to represent the NMI well. Funding is not easy, but our

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